\$3.95

January 2016

Volume 70-1, Northwest Chess enters its 70th year!!





Northwest Chess

January 2016, Volume 70-1 Issue 816 ISSN Publication 0146-6941

Published monthly by the Northwest Chess Board. Office of record: c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 2501 152nd Ave NE STE M16, Redmond, WA 98052-5546.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Northwest Chess c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 2501 152nd Ave NE STE M16, Redmond, WA 98052-5546.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Seattle, WA USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

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Selected Best State Magazine/Newsletter in 2014 and 2015 by Chess Journalists of America!

On the front cover:

Ian Cavey at the Boise Chess Club on December 7, 2015. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

On the back cover:

Roland Feng (left) and Nick Raptis (right) conduct post-game analysis on November 14, 2015 during the Washington vs. Oregon State Champions match. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

Chesstoons:

Chess cartoons drawn by local artist Brian Berger, of West Linn, Oregon.

Northwest Chess Knights

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Idaho Chess News

Southern Idaho Open

By Barry Eacker

Jeffrey Roland of Boise won the 2015 edition of the Southern Idaho Open played at the Best Western Plus hotel in Twin Falls on November 14.

Roland's 3.5/4 score was enough to capture undisputed first place in the G/60;d5 format. The only blemish on Roland's score occurred in round three when Nicholas Hawkins of Boise nicked him for a draw. Hawkins and Dewayne Derryberry of Pocatello split the money for second and third with 3.0/4. None of the three players lost a game during the event. Fred Bartell of Twin Falls grabbed the fourth place prize, churning it out at 2.5/4. The sole setback for Bartell was a third round defeat against long time tournament player Hans Morrow of Farmington, Utah in round three. In addition to Morrow, Kim Barney of Kaysville, Utah also came from out of state in the open section. Roland has now won the event three times.

In the U1400 section, newcomer Wesley Nyblade III of Heyburn dominated the play, finishing with a 3.5/4 tally. Nyblade gave up a draw to Desmond Porth of Boise in round four. Porth, Roger Hunter of Nyssa, Oregon, William Olson of Bellevue and River Shepard of Hailey had to split second and third place money four ways, all racking up 3.0/4 scores. Porth, and of course Nyblade, were the only players unscathed by losses in the section. The only player from outside Idaho in the reserve section was Roger Hunter.

The tournament had thirty players, pretty good for a one day event in Idaho. Sixteen players from Idaho and Utah occupied the Open section while the U1400 contingent boasted nine players from Silver Creek High School in Hailey headed up by super organizer and chess teacher extraordinaire, Adam Porth (who played up in the open section). During the tournament, Mr. Porth created an opportunity for all the players to own a piece of Idaho chess history, selling books for a fund raiser for the BCSD Chess Rage club in Hailey. What made it special was that the books came from the library of Senior Master and long time tournament player Dan Mayers of Sun Valley, who passed away January 2, 2014. It's always good to contribute to a great cause and honor historical chess personalities at the same time.

Many thanks to Best Western Twin Falls, Amy Perkins and her staff for once again supplying an outstanding venue. Barry Eacker was the Tournament Director and was assisted by Jeffrey Roland and Adam Porth. The tournament was sponsored by the Idaho Chess Association and qualifies as a Northwest Chess Grand Prix event. The event was rated by the United States Chess Federation.

> John Dennis Glenn (1868) – Jeffrey T. Roland (1700) [D85] SIO (Open) Twin Falls, ID (R2), November 14, 2015



Chief TD Barry Eacker, Darwin Porth, Otto Olson. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Be3 c5 9.Rc1 cxd4 10.cxd4 Bg4 11.Qd2 Nc6 12.d5 Bxf3 13.gxf3 Ne5 14.Be2 Qd7 15.h4 Rac8 16.Rxc8 Rxc8 17.h5



Position after 17.h5

17...Nxf3+ 18.Bxf3 Bc3 0-1

Nicholas B. Hawkins (1713) – Hans M. Morrow (1900) [B86] SIO (Open) Twin Falls, ID (R2), November 14, 2015 [Nicholas Hawkins]

1.e4 c5

This move took me by surprise. I know this is an overgeneralization, but I tend to expect young players to play more tactically and older players to play more positionally; this game, however, was tactical from move one!

2.Nf3!

I used to respond to the Sicilian by playing either 2.c4, transposing to an English Opening setup with Nc3, g3, Bg2, etc., or 2.Nc3, the Closed Variation. However, the statistics clearly show that 2.Nf3 is the best move if you want to go for a win. I have mediocre results with the Closed Sicilian against good players, so I figured it was time for a change, even though my knowledge of Open Sicilian variations is still rudimentary.

2...d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4

I remember reading in a Chess Mentor lesson that Fischer used to like to play this move, so I went for it.

6...e6 7.f3?!

Nowhere near the most common move. It's not a good idea to allow Black to immediately play ...b5! with tempo. Usually White continues with 7.Bb3, whereupon the main line runs 7...b5 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qf3 with roughly equal chances. Given that I wanted to castle long, this probably wasn't the best line to go for.

7...Qc7

7...b5 8.Bb3 Be7 9.Be3 0–0 10.Qd2 Bb7 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Nxe6 Qc8 13.Nxf8 Qxf8 is equal according to the computer.

8.Bb3 Nc6 9.Be3 Be7 10.Qd2 0-0 11.g4 Na5

Stockfish prefers 11...Nxd4 12.Bxd4 b5, when Black's attack looks quicker.

12.0-0-0 Nxb3+ 13.axb3 b5 14.h4

I don't want to play g5 until I can prevent the knight from going to h5.

14...Rd8

Too slow. I kept expecting Black to push his queenside pawns, but he didn't. 14... b4 15.Na4 d5 16.e5 Nd7 (*16...Qxe5?? 17.Bf4* wins at least a piece) 17.f4 Nc5 18.Nxc5 Bxc5 and Black is slightly better according to the engine.

15.h5 d5 16.g5! Ne8 17.e5!

One of two nice defensive moves I came up with to slow down Black's counterplay. Black can't take on e5 because Bf4 traps the queen.

17...Bb4 18.g6! Bxc3



Position after 18...Bxc3

19.gxh7+

Although I wasn't sure if allowing the Black king to hide on h8 was a good idea, I wanted to rip open the g-file immediately. Slightly better according to the engine is 19.bxc3, as taking on g6 loses: 19...fxg6? 20.hxg6 hxg6 (the pawn captures can be in either order) 21.Bg5! Rd7 22.Qh2 Qxc3 23.Qh7+ (23.Qh8+ Kf7 24.Rh4 QaI+ 25.Kd2 and Black has to sacrifice the queen on d4 to prevent Rf4 mate) 23...Kf7 24.Kb1 followed by Rh6 wins handily.

19...Kxh7?!

19...Kh8! is a tougher defense: 20.bxc3 Bb7 (preventing the fork on c6 after ...Qxe5) 21.Kb2 Qxe5 22.Bf4 Qf6 23.Bg5 Qe5 24.h6 g6 (24...Kxh7? 25.hxg7+ Kxg7 26.Bxd8 with mate soon to follow) 25.Rde1 Qd6 26.Bxd8 Qxd8 27.Nxe6 crashes through. Of course, I didn't see this far ahead — I was just going for logical attacking moves.



Nicholas B. Hawkins (left) and Hans Morrow (right). Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

20.Qd3+ Kg8 21.bxc3 Bd7 22.f4

I have to protect e5 now.

22...Rdc8 23.Kb2?!

23.Bd2! stops Black from opening up lines to my king by advancing his a- and b-pawns.

23...Rab8?!

23...b4 24.cxb4 a5 25.bxa5 Qxa5 26.Ra1 Qb4 defends somewhat more tenaciously.

24.Nf3!

Heading for g5, where the knight will do all sorts of damage.

24...b4 25.c4!



Position after 25.c4

My second unexpected defensive resource. Now that the queenside is blocked, Black has no counterattack.

25...Bc6

The computer actually gives 25...dxc4 26.Qxd7 cxb3 27.Qxc7 Rxc7 28.cxb3 as the best defense, which shows what deep trouble Black is in.

26.Ng5 dxc4? 27.Qh7+ Kf8 28.Bc5+

Now the only way to avoid mate is to give up the queen and the knight.

28...Nd6

28...Qe7 29.Qh8#

29.Bxd6+ Qxd6 30.exd6 c3+ 31.Kb1 Ke8 32.Qg8+

Seeing that it was mate in three moves, my opponent resigned here. The ending would have been 32...Kd7 33.Qxf7+ Kd8 34.Nxe6#

1–0

Wesley Nyblade (1516) – David Zaklan (1475) [D13] SIO (Open) Twin Falls, ID (R3), November 14, 2015 [Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Bg5 e6 6.Nf3 Be7 7.e3 0–0 8.Bd3 a6 9.0–0 Nc6 10.a3

 $10.\text{Rc}1\pm$...Nb4 is not to be feared as White can retreat the bishop to b1, when a later a3 actually wins a tempo by driving the knight back whence it came.

10...b5?

10...h6



Position after 10...b5

11.b4

11.Qc2! threatens both Bxf6/Bxh7+

and Nxb5/Qxc6, winning a pawn either way. Black doesn't have much obvious compensation for the pawn. 11...Bb7 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Bxh7+ Kh8 14.Bd3 Rc8 (14...b4 15.Na4±) 15.Rac1 b4?! 16.Qb3!±

11...Bb7 12.Rc1 Rc8 13.Qc2

 $13.Nd2 \pm$ Heading for c5.

13...g6 14.Bh6 Re8 15.h3 Bf8

15...Nd7 Heading for c4.

16.Bxf8 Rxf8 17.Qd2 Qd6 18.Rfd1 Rc7 19.e4 dxe4 20.Nxe4 Nxe4 21.Bxe4 Rfc8 22.Qh6



Position after 22.Qh6

22...Qf8

22...Nxd4!? 23.Ng5 (23.Nxd4 Rxc1 24.Rxc1 Rxc1+ 25.Qxc1 Bxe4∓) 23...f6! (23...Bxe4 24.Qxh7+ Kf8 25.Nxe4 Qe5

 $(25...bxe4 \ 24.Qxn7+ Kj8 \ 25.Nxe4 \ Qe5 \ 26.Rxc7 \ Rxc7 \ 27.Nc5\pm)$



(#Diagram-analysis after 23...f6)

24.Nxh7 (24.Nxe6 Bxe4 25.Nxc7 Rxc7 26.Qe3 (26.Rxc7?? Ne2+ 27.Kh1 Qxd1+ 28.Kh2 Qg1#) 26...Rxc1 27.Qxc1 (27. Rxc1 Bb7! 28.Rd1 Qc6 with a small material edge to Black.) 27...Ne2+ (27... Bb7 28.Qd2 Qc6 29.f3 White's d-file activity compensates for the small



Adam Porth. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

material deficit.) 28.Kf1 Nxc1 29.Rxd6) 24...Rxc1 (24...*Rxh7* 25.*Rxc8*+ *Bxc8* 26.*Qxg6*+ *Rg7* 27.*Rxd4*! *Qe7* 28.*Qh6*) 25.Nxf6+ (25.*Qxg6*+ *Kh8* 26.*Qxf6*+ *Kg8* 27.*Qg6*+ *Kh8* 28.*Qf6*+) 25...Kf7 26.Qxg6+ Ke7 27.Qg7+ Kd8 28.Qg8+ Ke7 29.Qg7+ Kd8 Draw by repetition. 30.Qg8+ Kc7 31.Qf7+ and the black king must return to d8.(Suspect instead is 31.Rxc1+?! Kb6



(#Diagram-analysis after 31...Kb6)

32.Nd5+!! Yes, it took a computer to spot that one. (32.Rxc8?? Ne2+ forces mate.) 32...exd5 (32...Qxd5!? 33.Qxc8 Ne2+ 34.Kf1 Bxc8 35.Bxd5 Nxc1 36.Be4∞, but potentially dangerous for both sides. White does have remote connected passers, but only two pawns for the piece.) 33.Rxc8 Bxc8 34.Qxd5∞)

23.Qe3

23.Qh4±

23...Nd8 24.Bxb7 Nxb7 25.Rxc7 Rxc7



Position after 25...Rxc7

26.h4?!

White ignores the center. 26.Ne5

26...Qc8

The knight is Black's worst-placed piece. Perhaps this would be a good time to improve it with 26...Nd6 heading toward c4 or f5.

27.h5 Rc3

27...Nd6∞

28.Rd3

28.Qf4 Rxa3? 29.Ng5 Qf8 30.hxg6 hxg6 (30...fxg6 31.Qc7 spells trouble.) 31.Qh2 keeps an eye on both h7 and b8. 31...Kg7 32.Qh7+ Kf6 33.Ne4+ Ke7 (33...Kf5 34.f3 weaves a mating net.) 34.Qh4+ Kd7 (34...f6 35.Rc1+-) 35.d5 is a huge attack. 28...Rc1+

28...Rxd3 29.Qxd3 Qc1+ 30.Kh2 Qh6∓ 29.Kh2 Qc7+ 30.g3 Qc6?

30...Nd6∞

31.h6 Rc2?



Position after 31...Rc2

32.d5!

Perhaps even stronger is 32.Qe5! Rxf2+ (32...Kf8 33.d5! exd5 34.Re3 rounds up royalty.) 33.Kg1+-

32...exd5 33.Rxd5??

33.Qe5!+-

33...Rxf2+ 34.Kg1 Rc2

34...Kf8! 35.Kxf2 Qxd5 36.Ng5! White's threat to h7 will force Black to deliver perpetual check.

35.Re5

35.Qe7! wins by threatening the back rank and Rd7, picking up the b7-knight and/or the black king. 35...Rc1+ 36.Kg2 Rc2+ 37.Kh3

35...Rc1+

35...Nd6 36.Qa7∞

36.Kh2

36.Kf2

36...Nd6 37.Kh3?

37.Ne1

37...Rc3 38.Qd4



Position after 38.Qd4

38...Rxf3??

38...Qxf3! 39.Qh4 (39.Qg1 f5 40.Rc5 Qh5+ 41.Kg2 Qe2+ and Black can shortly force checkmate. 42.Qf2 (42.*Kh3 Ne4* 43.*Rxc3 Ng5*+ 44.*Kh4 Qg4#*; 42.*Kh1 Rd3*) 42...Rxg3+ 43.Kxg3 Ne4+) 39...

Qf1+ 40.Kg4 Rc4+ 41.Kg5 f6#

39.Re8+??

39.Rc5! Qd7+ (39...Rxg3+40.Kxg3 Nf5+ (40...Ne4+41.Qxe4+- (Or *41.Kh4*, since *41...g5*+ *42.Rxg5*+ mates.)) 41.Rxf5) 40.Kh2! is winning.



(#Diagram-analysis after 40.Kh2)

Black faces problems due to the mate threat on g7, the pinned d6-knight, and the hanging f3-rook.(But 40.Kg2? runs into 40...Rxg3+! 41.Kf2 (41.Kxg3??) Nf5+) 41...f6! 42.Qd5+ Kf8 (42...Kh8?? 43.Qxd6! Rf3+ 44.Kxf3 Qh3+ 45.Ke2 White can march over to the b-file and interpose the rook on c2 to escape the checks.) 43.Kxg3 Nf5+ 44.Kf2 Qxd5 45.Rxd5 Ke7. This ending looks balanced.)

39...Nxe8 0-1

DeWayne R. Derryberry (1706) – Nicholas B. Hawkins (1713) [A45] SIO (Open) Twin Falls, ID (R4), November 14, 2015 [Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.f4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.e3 b6 5.Bd3 Bb7 6.0–0 Be7 7.Qe2 d5 8.c3 0–0 9.Ne5 Ne4 10.Nd2 f5 11.Rf3 Nc6 12.Rh3 Nxe5 13.fxe5 Qe8 14.Bb5 Qf7 15.Rf3 Nxd2 16.Bxd2 a6 17.Bd3 c4 18.Bc2 Qe8 19.Kh1 Bc6 20.g4 fxg4 21.Rxf8+ Bxf8 22.Qxg4 Ra7 23.Rg1 g6 24.Be1 Bh6 25.Qh3 Bg7 26.Bg3 Rf7 27.Bf4 Bd7 28.Qg3 Qf8 29.h4 Bh6 30.Bxg6 hxg6 31.Qxg6+



Position after 31.Qxg6+

31...Bg7

With 31...Rg7! 32.Qxh6 Rxg1+ 33.Kxg1 Qxh6 34.Bxh6 Be8 Black has excellent drawing chances.

32.h5 Rxf4!?



DeWayne R. Derryberry. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

White has plenty of compensation for the piece now in any case. exd5 17.Qb3 Bc6 18.Re3 Bf6

33.exf4 Kh8



Position after 33...Kh8

34.Rg4

34.f5!, since 34...exf5 35.h6! Bxh6 36.e6 Be8 37.e7! wins.

34...Bh6

After 34...Bh6 White still stands significantly better: 35.Rg1 Be8 (35... Bxf4 36.Qf6+ Qxf6 37.exf6 Be8 (37... Bh6 38.f7 Bg7 39.h6+-) 38.Rf1 should win handily.) 36.Qxe6 Bxf4 37.Rf1 Bxh5 38.Qh3 Qh6 39.Rxf4 Qxf4 40.Qxh5+ Kg7 41.Qh2 \pm

1/2-1/2

Hans M. Morrow (1900) – Jeffrey T. Roland (1700) [D37] SIO (Open) Twin Falls, ID (R4), November 14, 2015 [Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Qc2 0–0 6.Bf4 Nbd7 7.e3 c5 8.Bd3

8.Rd1±

8...cxd4 9.exd4 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Nb6 11.Bb3 Bd7 12.0-0 Rc8 13.Qd3 a6 14.Rfe1 Nbd5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Bxd5



Position after 18...Bf6

19.Rae1 Qa5

19...Qd7

20.Bg5

20.Be5 Bxe5 21.Nxe5±

20...Bxg5 21.Nxg5 h6 22.Nf3 Qd8?!

22...Rfe8, i.e. 23.Rxe8+ Rxe8 24.Rxe8+ Bxe8 25.Qxb7 Qxa2.

23.h3 Bb5 24.a4 Bc4 25.Qa3 a5 26.b3

26.Re7!?

29.Qb2

26...Ba6 27.g3 Qf6 28.Kg2 g5?!

28...Qb6!?±



Position after 28...g5



After the game, Hans Morrow (left) and Jeffrey Roland (right) go over what might have been had there been more time on the clock. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

29.Ne5!± The not too subtle tactical justification is 29...Rc2?? 30.Qxf8+ Kxf8 31.Nd7+.

29...Qf5 30.Rc3

Heading back to the better a3-square has merit: 30.Qa3 Rc2?? (30...Bd3 31.Ne5 Be4+32.f3 Rc2+33.R1e2 Rxe2+34.Rxe2 Bd3 $35.Rf2\pm$) 31.Re8 Rxe8 32.Rxe8+ Kh7 33.Qf8+-

30...f6 31.Qd2

31.Re7



Position after 31.Qd2

31...Rxc3

This constitutes a gambit. $31...b6\pm$ is a less committal alternative.

32.Qxc3 Rc8 33.Qxa5 Bd3 34.g4 Qd7 35.Qb4

35.Nd2!?, avoiding the problems associated with the coming pin.

35...Be4 36.Re3 f5

36...h5!? keeps the e5 square under observation.

37.gxf5?

White can take advantage of the weakened e5 square with 37.Rxe4! fxe4 38.Ne5, offering White good compensation for the exchange. Black will either have to part with another pawn or tie down both of his major pieces passively defending them. 38...— (38...Qc7 39.Qb5 Rd8 40.a5; 38... Qe6 39.Qxb7 Rc2 40.Kg3)

37...Qxf5 38.Qxb7

38.Qd6 h5! with threat of ...g4. (38...*Rf8* 39.Qg3 is also likely good for Black, but less pointed.)



Position after 38.Qxb7

38...g4

38...Rf8-+ Black wins the piece and maintains his powerful attacking force.

39.hxg4 Qxg4+ 40.Kf1 Qh3+

40...Bxf3 only draws: 41.Rxf3 Rc1+ 42.Ke2 Qe4+ 43.Re3 Qg4+ 44.Rf3. Black's only try to avoid delivering perpetual is 44...Rc2+ 45.Kd1 Rxf2, but of course White is able to check forever, too.; Better is 40...Rf8, triple-attacking the single-defended knight, and offering big trouble for the white king if the knight attempts to retreat: 41.Ne1 (41.Qc7 Bxf3 42.Qg3 is a computer's attempt to blunt the initiative, though the ending with only two pawns for the piece doesn't look like much fun.) 41...Qf4 42.Re2 Qh4 43.Ra2 Re8 contains the deadly threat of 44... Bd3+, while 44.f3 Qh1+ 45.Kf2 Qh2+ 46.Ng2 Rf8 is hopeless for White.

41.Ke2 Rc2+

41...Qg4 keeps up the pressure. 42.Kd1



Position after 42.Kd1

42...Qh1+??

42...Qf1+ is now a clear path to the draw:

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43.Ne1 Qxf2 44.Nxc2 Qxc2+ 45.Ke1 Qc1+ and perpetual check.; 42...Rxf2 may also hold, but is less clear. Amusing is 43.Qf7+ Kxf7 44.Ne5+ Kf6 45.Rxh3 Kg5 ∞ .

43.Ne1 Qh5+ 44.f3 Qh2 45.Qa8+?

45.Nxc2 Qxc2+ 46.Ke1 Qc1+ 47.Kf2 Qd2+ 48.Re2 Qxd4+ 49.Kg2+-



Position after 45.Qa8+

45...Kf7?

45...Kh7! 46.Nxc2 Qxc2+ 47.Ke1 Qc1+ 48.Kf2 Qd2+ 49.Re2 Qxd4+ 50.Kg2 Qg7+ 51.Kf1 everything else repeats as well. 51...Qa1+, and by using ...Qa1+, ...Qd4+, ...Qg7+, and ...Bd3+ as needed, Black can force repetition: 52.Re1 Bd3+ 53.Kf2 Qd4+ 54.Kg3 Qg7+ 55.Kh2 Qc7+ 56.Kh1 Qf7!; Why doesn't the game move work just as well? 45...Kf7? 46.Nxc2 Qxc2+ 47.Ke1 Qc1+ 48.Kf2 Qd2+ 49.Re2 Qxd4+ 50.Kg2 Qg7+ 51.Kf1 Qa1+



(#Diagram-analysis after 51...Qa1+)

52.Re1! Qf6 (52...Bd3 + 53.Kf2 Qd4 + 54.Kg3 Qg7 + 55.Kh2 Qb2 + 56.Kh1 and Black's exposed king leaves him unable to give check or create a meaningful threat.)

53.Qa7+ Kg6 54.Qg1+ Kh7 55.Qe3 Bxf3 56.Qe7+ Qxe7 57.Rxe7+ and White will win smoothly.

0–1 (Time Forfeit)



Wesley Nyblade III, winner of the Reserve Section. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



Roger Hunter. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



James Inman (left) and Jacob Nathan (right). The spectators (L-R) were: Roger Hunter, William Olson, Jeffrey Roland, David Zaklan, and Richard Nathan. Photo credit: Adam Porth.





Oregon Chess News

PokerStars Isle of Man

By GM James Tarjan

In October 2015, I played in the PokerStars Isle of Man International Chess Tournament held in Douglas, the attractive capital of the island nation, out in the Irish Sea between England and Ireland. Surprisingly, I was the only player from the U.S. At least it was surprising to me, as this was a very strong and well organized event. No doubt the fact that it overlapped with the Millionaire Open in Las Vegas was a big factor. But I think it is also true that currently not a lot of U.S. players find their way to European events. The very best certainly, who are climbing the ladder to the top of the chess world, or are there already. But who else? Young talents need not go over the pond any more to get their international master and grandmaster titles; they have norm tournaments here, which is certainly a good thing.

Clearly I am in neither category, these days. In any event, I was glad to be there on the Isle of Man. The strongest open tournament ever held in the British Isles: only the elite round robins, such as the London Classic, can boast of higher ratings. And something else that I like: one round a day. Nine rounds, one round a day, a slow time control and a 30 second increment. Thirty seconds is added to the clock after each move, which means, for better or worse, that the players always have the time to record their moves and are never in really dramatic time trouble. Slow and civilized, and if one happens to be crushed in one game, there is plenty of time to get over it and get back in the arena the next day. And no grandmaster draws: the thirty move rule is enforced, meaning no agreed draws before move 30. Indeed the players, respected and well treated, fight like the devil.

So many fine chessplayers are in attendance that even those down towards the middle of the crosstable, as I was, get paired with very strong masters. A loss is not nice, but even so one can be sure to get another tough opponent the next day. That may not sound like a good thing to some of you. But it works for me.

Tied for first with seven out of nine were Penta Harikrishna, Laurent Fressinet, and Gabriel Sargissian, all with performance ratings over 2800. Harikrishna took first on tie break. How did I do? Very much a matter of perspective. I scored four wins, three losses, and two draws for five out of nine. I would have been happier with another point or so, and believe I am capable of it. On the other hand, I am a 63-year-old playing in the big boy's sand box, as it were. I held my own. And I achieved at least one of my goals: to play all nine games flat out, from beginning to end, and keep my courage, and as much of my strength as I could muster.

Here is my day's chess from the seventh round. My opponent is Ticia Gara, twice Women's Champion of Hungary, member of their Women's Olympiad team, and holder of the Women's International Grandmaster title.

Gicia Gara – Jim Tarjan [C77] Isle of Man (R7), October 9, 2015 [Tarjan,James]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 d6

With White having played the early 5.d3, before Black has moved his f8 bishop, Black has options. He chooses to fianchetto the bishop, and to avoid the usual ...b5 advance. The fianchetto certainly makes sense, especially compared with the slow maneuver Black often resorts to with the more usual development of ...Be7 and then later ...Re8, ...Bf8, ...g6, and finally ...Bg7. Nonetheless chess is not that simple and, at this early stage, it remains unclear just where Black's pieces ought to go.

6.c3

Various options for White as well over the next few moves, such as 6.c4.

6...g6 7.0-0 Bg7 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Re1 Nh5

With King's Indian-like themes of ...f5 or ...Nf4.

10.Nf1 Kh8

The idea is to protect the king from checks after a later ...f5. I don't know that I would repeat this, even though, checking the database, I see I am in very good company: a young Tigran Petrosian played it in 1952! (Without success, however.) More recently, Shirov preferred the straightforward 10...f5, while Short essayed 10...h6. 10...Nf4 11.Bxf4 exf4, abandoning the pawn center, looked positionally suspect to me, though even this could be debated in this complicated, fluid position.

11.Bg5 Qe8

Again, the King's Indian aficionados among us will recognize the themes. On a later ...f5 exf5 gxf5 the N h5 is guarded and Black's queen comes to g6. At least, that is the idea. On 11...f6 I figure White's thought is 12.Bh4, though I didn't have the chance to ask her after the game. The bishop comes to g3, where it defends the kingside and plays a role pressuring e5 after White's d4.

12.d4 h6 13.Be3

Here as well 13.Bh4 is an alternative.

13...Bd7 14.dxe5 dxe5

14...Nxe5 trades a minor piece or two, is less complicated, and perhaps objectively better.

15.Qd2 Kh7 16.Bc5 Rg8 17.Ne3 b6

Pushing the bishop to what is at least potentially an awkward square. And it has to be done right now, before White plays Nd5 and frees e3 for the bishop.

18.Ba3 Nf4 19.Nd5



Position after 19.Nd5

Houdini likes 19.g3 instead, putting the question to Black's N. The reason will be clear from the next note.

19...Ne6?

Houdini strongly prefers 19...Nxd5 20.exd5 (or 20.Qxd5 Rd8) 20...Na5! and the threat of ...Nc4 holds Black together. After either 21.Bxd7 Qxd7 or 21.Bb3 the position remains double-edged but OK for Black. In contrast, Houdini does not like Black's position after my 19...Ne6. After, say, 20.Rad1 Rd8 21.Qe3. White retains that nice central N on d5. I was relying on a King's Indian-style attack on the kingside, probably starting with a later ...f5. But can Black really achieve this, or will a kingside break completely backfire? If Black cannot attack on the kingside, he simply stands worse in the center, very much in fact like a King's Indian gone wrong. I am willing to grant that Houdini is probably right about this. Fortunately for me, Gara instead decides to play more directly. When the smoke clears, she will have won a pawn, but at the cost of exchanging off her most active pieces and handing over the initiative.

20.Bxc6 Bxc6 21.Ne7 Rd8 22.Qe2 Rh8

Neither 22...Bb5? 23.c4 nor 22...Nf4 are improvements.

23.Nxc6 Qxc6 24.Qxa6



Position after 24.Qxa6

24...Rd7!

24...Nf4 looks more active, but what is the follow-up? 24...Rd7 has the simple plan of doubling rooks on the crucial open d file. White can only oppose rooks at the cost of his e-pawn. How shall we evaluate this position after 24...Rd7? White is, after all, a pawn ahead. But only the lowly a pawn, a long way away from mattering. Black's domination of the d file must mean something. The bishop on a3 is oddly positioned; we can accurately call it misplaced. On the other hand, Black's bishop has yet to play much of a role, either. White has no real weaknesses: how does Black make further progress? The position remains tense and difficult. Over the board, I felt I must have at least equal chances, full compensation for the pawn, if not more. Analysis, and even my computer, do not disagree. And, for most people, certainly for me, attacking is easier than defending. And more fun.

25.g3 Rhd8 26.Qe2 Qa4 27.Rac1

White is trying to untangle. Rc2 or Qc2 are ideas. In the meantime, just what is Black doing? Perhaps ...c5, blocking White's bishop's diagonal. And then Black can think about ...b5-b4 trapping it. But not entirely clear, nor convincing.

27...Rd3

This doesn't really forward any plan, but it does prevent both Rc2 and Qc2. And it invites White's next move, which totally transforms the position. Particularly if White is not happy with things as they stand, it will be hard to pass up. Perhaps Black simply blundered? Well, no, I saw White's next. I won't pretend I saw everything to its conclusion, or even that I was entirely confident of the result. But I saw enough to take a chance.

28.Nd4 exd4 29.Qxd3 dxc3

And can you blame me? I know I keep going on about the King's Indian, but really, this is as dramatic a transformation of the fianchettoed bishop as one will see. And the N coming to d4, and the pawn c3...

30.Qc2 Qa8!

Possibly White underestimated this move when she took the exchange. Black keeps all the tension and the threats and is even looking back around to White's weakened kingside, should the N get to d4 or g5.

31.Red1



Position after 31.Red1

These days we have our computers to spoil our pretty combinations for us. I am happy to say that the computer does not manage to refute my combination. It finds a defence for White, but not more than a difficult equality. Here it plays 31.Qb3. After 31...Ng5 (Not 31...Nd4? 32.Qxf7) it gives back the exchange: 32.Rxc31 Bxc3 33.Qxc3 and holds on, but no more than that. Black can take his pawn back right away with 33...Nxe4 34.Qf3 f5. Or he can try trickier moves such as 33...Rd7 or 33...c5. White's bishop, after all, remains out of play. Instead of 31...Ng5 Black can also try 31...c5!? with continuing complications not unfavorable to Black.

31...Nd4 32.Qd3 c5!

Another crucial move. Without this, White is perfectly OK.

33.bxc3

Acceding to material loss. Could White hold on with some waiting move instead? Not according to our computer friend. I remember during the game wondering about 33.Kg2. There are extraordinary complications in the air, but the bottom line seems to be that, with White's bishop in limbo on a3, Black's attack unstoppable. After 33.Kg2, the is straightforward 33...c2 lets White off the hook: 34.Rxc2 Nxc2 35.Qxc2 (though not 35.Qxd8 Qxe4+ 36.Kg1 Bd4!) 35... Rxd1 36.Qxd1 Qxe4+ 37.Qf3 and White is holding on. Instead, after 33.Kg2 Black keeps sacrificing: 33...f5! 34.f3 Nxf3!!

35.Qxf3 fxe5. Fantastic. I leave it to you and your computer to work out the rest.

33...Ne6 34.Qf3 Ng5

Guarding f7 before swallowing the bishop.

35.Qg4 Qxa3

I was eager to grab the piece, and this is certainly good for Black, but even stronger, and quickly decisive, is 35... Re8!

36.h4 Ne6 37.h5 Ng5 38.hxg6+ fxg6 39.Rxd8 Qxc1+ 40.Kg2 Qxc3



Position after 40...Qxc3

Black has two good active minor pieces against the rook, and a passed c pawn to boot. It is Black, with his superior force, who can develop an attack against the opposing king. Black's own king is safe enough. At a minimum, a forced queen trade should lead to a completely winning endgame, once the c pawn starts to move. Not to resort to adages, but you've heard that the hardest thing in chess is to win a won game? That proved to be the case for me here. My coordination of the bishop, knight, and passed pawn was less than impressive. The best that can be said for my play over the next 15 moves or so is that I managed to hold onto enough of the advantage to win in the end. Perhaps the lesson is: if you can't play well, play tough and hang on.

41.Rd6 b5 42.Qe2 Qe5 43.Rd5 Qe7 44.f3 b4 45.Qc4

I am not going to bore you with all the improvements I missed around here. But here is a typical one: 45...Qe6! intending 46...Qh3+. If 46.g4 Qf7 and the game is truly over: 47.Qd3 c4.Black should be attacking, and killing. Instead I allow White to push her pawns forward to e5 and f4 and keep fighting.

45...Qf6 46.Qe2 Ne6? 47.e5 Qf5 48.Qd3 Qxd3 49.Rxd3 Nd4 50.f4 h5

50...Bf8 getting the bishop back where it needs to be, to work around the e5 pawn. Or 35...g5 followed by ...Kg6 to f5.

51.Kf2 Kg8 52.Ke3

Thanks to Black's weak play, White is starting to have some hope of saving this game, or at least putting up a fight. Bringing the king to e4 is natural, but another idea is 52.a4!? giving Black a difficult choice, to take e.p. or not.

52...Kf7 53.Ke4 Ke6 54.g4! hxg4 55.Rg3 Nf5

I go on defending, hoping the position will win itself. 55...Ne2 56.Rxg4 Nc3+ is stronger, but that would have taken more calculation than I was capable of at this point.

56.Rxg4 Ne7 57.Rg1 Bf8



Position after 57...Bf8

Even after all the dithering, I still have my material advantage. I am not sure I can agree with the computer's assessment of this as equal after 58.a3 or 58.a4.

58.Rg2 c4

At long last I shift the car into forward.

59.Kd4

White's turn to miss her chances. Chess is a hard game. 59.Rc2 c3 60.a3 keeps the result in doubt.

59...c3

This is real progress, as White can no longer break up the queenside pawns: if 60.a3 bxa3 61.Kxc3 Nd5+ and 62...Nxf4.

60.Ke4 Kf7 61.Kd3 Nf5 62.Rh2 Ke6 63.Rh8 Kf7 64.Rh7+ Ng7 65.Rh2 Ne6



Position after 65...Ne6

At long last, Black's two pieces are actually acting as a superior force to the rook. I am targeting the f4 pawn, and White's king and rook will not be able to protect it and also prevent the advance of the passed pawn over on the c file.

66.Ke4 Bc5 67.Rh7+ Ke8 68.Rh1 Kd7

With my pawn down on c3 and my pieces finally where they belong, the king is

freed from guarding g6.

69.Rf1 Nd4 70.Kd3 Kc6 71.Rg1 Kd5 72.Rxg6 c2

Took only a bit of calculation, not beyond my capability, even late in the game. If 73.Rg1 Ne2 74.Kxe2 Bxg1 75.Kd2 Bc5 76.Kxc2 Ke4 and gobbles up the pawns.

73.Kd2 b3 74.axb3 Bb4+! 0-1

2015 Fall Classic

By Sarah McCoy

Eugene, OR — November 14, 2015

Fortunately for scholastic chess players in Oregon, the number of tournaments for young players has grown dramatically in the recent past. Chess enthusiasts and parent volunteers have taken the initiative to organize more and more competitive chess events. But one of the oldest scholastic tournaments in Oregon is the Fall Classic, which takes place annually in Eugene.

The Fall Classic was the brainchild of Jerry Ramey, who has been organizing tournaments in Eugene for decades. The owner of Southside Chess Club, Jerry has coached hundreds of students over the years in a variety of school chess clubs. Eventually, he added two more annual tournaments: the Winter Carnival, typically held in January and the March Madness in March.

Jerry first became interested in chess when his son, Forrest, wanted to learn how to play. He began to teach himself the rules of the game and began volunteering at the school to make sure that there were better opportunities for his son and other children. As Forrest's interest and ability grew, so did Jerry's involvement, and he soon realized that he wanted to make a career out of coaching.

Now, in an interesting turn of events, Forrest has been helping his dad to run chess clubs, camps, and tournaments. In fact, several of Eugene's top scholastic players have been taking private lessons from Forrest. who was once a prizewinning chess player himself. Given that the Fall Classic had well over 100 participants this year, Forrest's help has come at just the right time.

While many of Eugene's scholastic players look forward to the Fall Classic each year, the tournament also attracts players from surrounding areas. For example, a sizable number of players from Coquille attend all of the tournaments that Jerry organizes. Among these are the highly-rated Aaron Grabinsky (2301) and Josh Grabinsky (1943), who always add an element of excitement in the Elite section. Other players come from Cottage Grove and Roseburg, and a few even travel down from Portland.

The competition was very tough in the Elite Section, but in the end, the top three awards (and the accompanying cash prizes) all went to players from Coquille, with Aaron Grabinsky (4.0/4.0) in first place, Josh Grabinsky (3.0/4.0) in second place, and Josiah Perkins (3.0/4.0) in



A winning partnership: Forrest Ramey (left) with his father, Jerry Ramey, at the Fall Classic. Photo credit: Sarah McCoy.



The top three winners in the Fall Classic elite section were (L-R) Josiah Perkins (third), Aaron Grabinsky (first), and Josh Grabinsky (second), all from Coquille. Photo credit: Sarah McCoy.

third place. Congratulations go to all of the Elite players, including Andrea Botez, Victor Dossin, Jack McClain, Owen McCoy, and Simon Venter.

In the Advanced section, first place went to Torrey Gage-Tomlinson (4.0/4.0). There were five players with a 3.0/4.0 score, but according to the tie breaks, second place went to Ian Vo, and third place went to Phillip Vianna, followed by Sean Uan-zo-li (fourth), Lance Roy (fifth), and Christopher Glesmann (sixth).

The Intermediate section was the largest, with 33 players, and the first place winner was Dustin Herker, who finished with a perfect score of 5.0/5.0. There were three players who finished with 4.0/4.0, including Timson Lee (second place), Dakota Rockl (third place), and Naren Mahadevan (fourth place). In fifth place was Roman Max (3.5/5.0) who was closely followed on tie breaks by Francis



Many of the players stopped to admire the trophy table between their rounds, hoping that one would be theirs at the end of the day.. Photo credit: Sarah McCoy.

Anderson-Blankenship (3.5/5.0), Dorian Mills (3.5/5.0), and Alex Istudor (3.5/5.0).

The winner of the Novice 2 section was Jalen Wang (5.0/5.0), followed by Lucas Stephens in second place (4.0/5.0), Noah Menachemson in third place (4.0/5.0), and Andrey Bindeman in fourth place (4.0/5.0). In the Novice 1 section, Kai McCormack came in first (4.5/5.0), and Rui Wang took second place (4.0/5.0). Three players finished with 3.0/5.0, including Gage Wagner (third), Sam Farley (fourth), and Briana Flanders (fifth).

Both Jerry and Forrest look forward to welcoming scholastic players to their upcoming Winter Carnival Tournament (January 16, 2016) and the March Madness (TBA in March 2016). More details can be found at www.southsidechess.com/ tournaments.html

November 2015 PCC Quad 45

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — November 14, 2015

An eight-player Swiss and a cobbledtogether Quad made up the whole of the Portland Chess Club's November 2015 PCC Quad 45. As was the case in October's Quad, to offset a low and uneven (11-players) turnout and unbalanced ratings (including avoiding byes), it was necessary to add a house player and have two sections—the four higher rated players Micah Smith (2019-2028), Gerald Weaver (1821-1825), Brian Berger (1594-1596) and Arliss Dietz (1500-1500), forming the Quad.

Micah Smith, Chief TD, acting as the house player to fill out the quad, took the mystery out of who might win this section; and sure enough, post tournament scores reflected the ratings order with Smith coming in first with 3.0 points, Weaver with 2.0 points, Berger with 1.0 point, and Dietz with a goose egg.

Since Smith played as a house player and was not eligible for prizes, Gerald Weaver won the \$10 discounted entry fee on his next tournament, plus his choice of a chess book from a box of books recently donated to the club. Brian "Just Glad To Be Here" Berger was just happy to have gained two points on his rating, and Arliss Dietz was wondering if goose eggs make good eating.

The small Swiss, unlike the quad, did not finish in order of ratings. Aaron Probst (1479-1428) of Washington, the highest



(L) Jack Johnson vs Nathan Wonder. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

rated of the players, had to settle for fourth place with 1.5 points, drawing with Megan Cheng (920-976) and losing to Egan Wong (1097-1215). Wong, coming in as fourth-highest-rated in this section, and tying with Jack Johnson (unrated-1225P) for second-third place (each with 2.0 points), lost only to his father, Byron Wong (1349-1369), earning him a \$5 discount on his next tournament and his choice of a chess book—and as an added

plus, receiving a trophy and over 100 rating points!

The Wong-Wong battle was not intended, but was necessary because both father and son had 2.0 points going into the last round; but in this case a Wong (you just know I have to say it) did make a right by beating his son and turning in a perfect 3.0 points to take first and also the \$10 discount and choice of chess book.



Assit. Chief TD Mike Lilly. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Jack Johnson, by the way, was playing in his first tournament, and in addition to also getting \$5 off his next entry fee for tying for second, received his choice of a chess book and placed him provisionally as a D-class player. Welcome to the Portland Chess Club, Jack!

Mention must be made of a welcome sight behind the registration desk for this tournament, and that being the much missed Mike Lilly (the other Mike of the Mike & Mike show) who has returned as Assistant Chief TD after some health and family issues, but now seems in fine form to continue in said role. Welcome back, Mike!

PCC November 2015 Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — November 21, 2015

Upsets were rife during the Portland Chess Club's November Game 60, where 27 attendees gathered on a bright, but cold, Saturday morning. Whether it was something in the drinking water or some sort of chess blindness due to too much exposure from an extremely intense, low in the sky morning sun, will never be known. But the fact is, there were some terribly disillusioned higher-rated players at tournament's end.

Take myself, for example. It's not very often one can go from a C-player to a B-player in the morning (1596-1635), and back to a C-player later in the afternoon (1635-1583—1.0/4). But that's exactly what happened early that morning, when I gained 39 points for winning November's lower-section Tuesday Night Quads, and then later to lose 52 points in a game against a very determined young man by the name of David Roshu (1008-1074—1.0/4). I'm still not sure what happened in that game, but for now I'll blame the water AND the sun!

Another example of a low-rated player showing knowledgeable determination occurred in the games Megan Cheng (976-1152-2.0/4) played against Praveer Sharan (1551-1493-1.0/4) and Alex Yeo (1676-1636-1.5/4), where a 500 and 600 points advantage seemed no obstacle for this intensely-focused young lady, whose only loseses were to two 1800-plus players. And lest anyone think that Morgan the Dog had anything to do with it, well, he was preoccupied with trying to save Jerrold Richards (1379-1332-0.5/4) from coming in absolutely last—an endeavor that lately is becoming a Herculean task.



(L) Praveer Sharan vs David Murray. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

A further case of upsetting the cosmic balance of lower-rated players usually losing to players rated 300 or more points in strength above them, was the performance of Jon "The Giant Killer" Strohbehn (1481-1651). Testing himself first against the tough hide of Danny Phipps (1838-1823)—who tied for third place with three other players with a 3.0 score—then, finding 1800-plus players had their weak points, proceeded to test the metal of David "The Calculator" Murray (1866-1854), to find this other third place winner had chinks in his armor as well.

Relaxing after such heavy-duty mental machinations was found not to be an option, as Strohbehn was then paired against the always tough to beat Andrea Botez (1734-1688—1.0/4). And so, with whatever strength he had left after his first two rounds, he somehow managed to summon up enough energy to also take down this formidable opponent, which would lead him to his final encounter, that being paired against Steve Surak (1955-1960).



(L) Egan Wong and Byron Wong. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



Danny Phipps pumped with his winnings. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Perhaps fatigued by then, and definitely due for a nap, were probably factors in his loss to second place winner Surak (1955-1960—3.5/4). Still, Strohbehn's 3.0/4 points won him the U1500 award of \$47.25, and a hefty increase of 170 points in his rating—and I'm guessing, the respect of Phipps, Murray and Botez, who will, I am sure, be looking over their shoulders in future tournaments to see if Strohbehn might show up looking to duplicate these weekend upsets.

As nearly always, when Nick "The Raptor" Raptis (2351-2354—4.0/4) is present at one of these club tournaments, there is little guess-work as to the eventual overall winner—this being one of those many times. These weekend tournaments always seem to resemble a dining experience for "The Raptor," who starts off with an appetizer or two, and finishes with two helpings of the main course. In deference to the menu items this time, I will withhold names.

As mentioned previously, Steve Surak took second place, earning \$54, while Jack Woo McClain (1603-1630—3.0/4) received \$47.50 for winning the U1800 class prize, followed by Jason Cigan (2144-2144—3.0/4), Danny Phipps (3.0/4), David Murray (3.0/4) and Gerald Weaver (1825-1835—3.0/4), all of whom tied for third place, each earning 1/4 of the prize—10 dollars and 12 cents.

Besides the three-point gain in his rating after cleaning his plate of the menu items, "The Raptor" also pocketed the largest cash prize, \$81 (upped a bit because of the larger turnout). Though not asked what he was thinking about at the time, this reporter sensed that he was looking forward to his next meal.

Thanks go to Chief TD Lennart Bjorksten and Assistant Chief TD Mike Lilly for their help in making this a fun event.

Oregon Junior Closed

By Owen McCoy

The 2015 Oregon Junior Closed consisted this year of six of Oregon's best junior players: NM Aaron Grabinsky, Seth Talyansky, CM Joshua Grabinsky, Owen McCoy, Jeff Austin, and Gavin Zhang. The tournament was held on November 7-8, 14-15, and 29-30, in Salem, Eugene, and Portland respectively. On the weekend of November 7-8, it was Seth, Jeff, Gavin, and yours truly playing in a quad up in Salem. The results of that put Jeff Austin in 1st with 2 ¹/₂ out of 3, coming from a draw against me and wins against Gavin and Seth.

Are you with me so far? I'll give a quick standing report just in case.

Jeff Austin: 2.5 Owen McCoy: 2.0 Seth Talyansky: 1.5 Gavin Zhang: 0.0

Moving on to weekend two! The Grabinsky brothers drove up from Coquille to Eugene a day early because we were all playing in the Eugene Fall Classic the next day. After escaping time trouble by getting to move 40, I managed to win a long endgame against Josh, and consequently lost an even longer endgame against Aaron. However, I did not come away unscathed. I could not adjust to the time control change quickly enough (40/120 SD 60 d5 to 60 d5) and lost against both of them after getting down to two seconds on my clock in both games.

Standing report:

Owen McCoy: 3.0/5.0 Jeff Austin: 2.5/3.0 Seth Talyansky: 1.5/3.0 Aaron Grabinsky: 1.0/1.0 Joshua Grabinsky: 0.0/1.0 Gavin Zhang: 0.0/3.0

Weekend three: Everyone except me. It seems like these games were very interesting, and I would've enjoyed watching them. In fact, Jeff also won against Josh and finished with 4.5/5.0 and clear first. And somewhere in there Aaron and Josh played, and Aaron won.

> Jeff Austin (1891) – Aaron Grabinsky (2312) [E11] Oregon Junior Closed Chess Championship Portland Chess Club, (R5), November 29, 2015 [Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Bb4+ 3.Bd2 Bxd2+ 4.Qxd2 Nf6 5.Nf3 d5 6.Nc3 0–0 7.e3 Qe7 8.Rc1 Rd8 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Bd3 Nc6 11.h3 Ne4 12.Qd1 Bf5 13.a3 a6 14.0–0 Rd6 15.Qb3



Position after 15.Qb3

15...Nd2?

A conceptual error that costs a pawn, and eventually the game. 15...Nxc3 16.Qxc3 (16.Rxc3 Bxd3 17.Rxd3 Na5; 16.Bxf5? $Ne2+\mp$) 16...Bxd3 17.Qxd3

16.Nxd2 Bxd3 17.Nxd5

It's worth noting that even without the immediate capture on d5, White will soon win the button and stands much better. $17.Rfd1\pm$

Oregon Junior Closed Crosstable

(Ratings given are Northwest ratings.)

##	Name	Pre/Post	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	Jeff Austin	1891 / 2020	W5	W2	D3	W6	W4	4.5/5.0
2	Aaron Grabinsky	2312 / 2308	W6	L1	W5	W4	W3	4.0/5.0
3	Owen McCoy	1926 / 1966	D4	W6	D1	W5	L2	3.0/5.0
4	Seth Talyansky	2103 / 2081	D3	W5	D6	L2	L1	2.0/5.0
5	Gavin Zhang	1890 / 1877	L1	L4	L2	L3	W6	1.0/5.0
6	Joshua Grabinsky	1994 / 1953	L2	L3	D4	L1	L5	0.5/5.0

17...Qe6 18.Qxd3 Qxd5 19.Qe4 Qb5

19...f5 tries to hold back the pawn mass with the beginnings of a blockade, but after 20.Qxd5+ Rxd5 does not offer much hope.

20.Rc5 Qe2 21.Qc2

21.Nf3! gives back the pawn in exchange for creating several weaknesses and activating all of the white pieces. 21... Qxb2 22.Rb1 Qxa3 23.Rxb7+-; There is, however, a nice trap waiting for the unwary: 21.Nc4, which would have been the answer to 20...Qxb2, is met by 21... Rxd4! when White must scramble into a slightly worse endgame with 22.Qf3 Qxf3 23.gxf3 Rd3

21...Rg6 22.Nf3 Qxc2

22...Qxf3?? 23.Qxg6

23.Rxc2 Rd6 24.Rfc1 Rad8 25.Rc4 f5 26.b4 R8d7 27.g3 Kf8 28.Ne1 Re7 29.Nd3 Ke8 30.a4 Rd5 31.Nf4 Rdd7 32.Nd3 Rd5 33.Nf4 Rdd7 34.Nd3 Rd5 35.Kg2 g6 36.Nf4 Rdd7 37.Nd3 Rd5 38.Rb1 Na7 39.Rc5 Rd6 40.Ne5 Nc8 41.b5 a5 42.Rbc1 Kd8 43.Nc4 Rf6 44.Nxa5 Nd6 45.Nc4 Ne4 46.Rd5+ Ke8 47.Re5

47.a5

47...Rff7 48.a5 Rf6 49.Ra1 Rxe5 50.dxe5

Simple and strong is the more natural recapture with the knight: 50.Nxe5! Rf8 51.a6 bxa6 52.bxa6 Ke7 53.Rc1

50...Rf8 51.b6 cxb6 52.Nxb6 Ke7 53.Rc1 Ke6 54.Rc7 Rd8

54...Kxe5 55.f3! Nf6 (55...Nd6 56.Re7+ Kf6 57.Nd5+ Kg5 58.Rxh7 is a mating net.) 56.Rxb7+-

55.Rxb7 Rd2 56.a6 Rxf2+ 57.Kg1 Rd2 58.a7 Ng5



Position after 58...Ng5

59.Re7+!

A must-find winning idea, either here or after 59.Kfl Nf3 when 60.Re7+! is necessary to prevent perpetual check.(60. a8Q?? Nh2+ 61.Ke1 Nf3+)

59...Kxe7 60.a8Q h5 61.Qb7+ Kf8 62.Nd7+ Ke7 63.Nc5+ Ke8 64.Qc8+ Kf7 65.e6+ Kg7 66.Qd7+?! Good enough, of course, but 66.Kfl should encourage resignation.

66...Kf6?

The better 66...Rxd7 67.exd7 Nf7 68.Ne6+ Kf6 69.d8Q+ Nxd8 70.Nxd8 is still easily winning for White.

67.Qb7 Nxh3+ 68.Kf1 Ng5 69.e7 Kf7 70.Nb3 Rd6 71.Nd4 Ne4 72.Qc7 Ke8 73.Nc6 Rd1+ 74.Ke2 Nc3+ 75.Kf3 1–0

The Tournament director was Andrei Botez who is the scholastic coordinator for OCF. Jeff Austin, as the winner, gets an automatic entry into the Oregon Closed Championship. Congratulations Jeff, and good luck!



Jeff Austin. Photo credit: Daniel Austin.

Aaron Grabinsky Earns Twelfth Grade National Co-Champion Title

By Nancy Keller

During November, Aaron Grabinsky stumbled at the Oregon Junior Closed. Both Aaron and Joshua were invited to the Oregon Junior Closed Championships where only the top six players in Oregon are invited. It was played over several weekends and Aaron had beaten his first four opponents but during the last round, Aaron stumbled against Jeff Austin and lost the game. Thus Aaron ended up in second place with an ecstatic Jeff Austin claiming first. Joshua Grabinsky had even a tougher time as he was only able to draw one player out of the five rounds and lost all his other games including against his brother Aaron.

However, on December 4th through the 6th, Aaron redeemed himself in full glory. Aaron and his brother Joshua as well as Josiah Perkins played at the National K-12 Grade Chess Championships in Orlando Florida at the Disney Coronada Springs Resort. They earned four huge trophies. One of the trophies was for Aaron earning a tie for first place in the Twelfth Grade National Championships.

The first day was the side tournaments of bughouse and blitz (speed chess). Joshua found a partner from Florida, Cory Riegalhaupt 11th grade. The two of them won fourth place in bughouse. Aaron and Josiah placed tenth in bughouse but trophies only went for the first five places. Then Blitz was played later in the day and Aaron Grabinsky tied for second but on tie breakers received the third place trophy. The Coquille team formed by Aaron, Joshua and Josiah Perkins won fourth place National Blitz teams.

The following three days, the three Coquille scholastic players participated in the grueling seven round National Grade Championships with 1724 players from across the nation. Josiah Perkins put up a good fight with 3.5 wins out of seven against the best tenth grade players in the nation. Joshua won 4.5 games in the seventh grade section.

Aaron excelled as he earned six points out of seven (five wins and two draws) and thus earned the title of Twelfth Grade National Co-Champion. He tied for first with Justus Williams from New York.

All this from little old Coquille, Oregon!

Stats from the Championship tournament:

Aaron Grabinsky rated 2300

Round 1: beat Evan Cooper from Florida rated 1403

Round 2: beat Anita Malsinak from New York rated 1762

Round 3: beat Phillipo Parker Turner from Illinois rated 1967

Round 4: beat Nickolas Arthur from Florida rated 2102

Round 5: drew Joshua Colas from New York rated 2390

Round 6: beat Alexander Spinnell from New York rated 2218

Round 7: drew Isaac Barayev from New York rated 2202

Joshua Grabinsky rated 1982

Round 1: beat Marion Debrise from DC rated 1131



(L-R): Josiah Perkins, Joshua Grabinsky, and Aaron Grabinsky with three out of four of their trophies. Photo credit: Nancy Keller.

Round 2: beat Atticus Lee from New York rated 1567

Round 3: drew Elliott Starkman from Florida rated 1733

Round 4: beat Tyler Roonprapunit from New York rated 1833

Round 5: beat Bryan Wisz from Conneticut rated 1890

Round 6: lost to Evan Ling from Virginia rated 2010

Round 7: lost to Kevin Ho from Illinois rated 1703

Josiah Perkins rated 1682

Round 1: beat Francisco Gomez from Florida rated 1327

Round 2: lost to Amir Mazami from New York rated 2099

Round 3: beat Brendon Fitzgerald from New Jersey rated 1282

Round 4: drew Pireiru Marquez from Florida rated 2117

Round 5: lost to Sam Mason from Utah rated 1719

Round 6: beat Rose Dreizen from New York 1683

Round 7: lost to Phillip Keisler from DC rated 1726





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Washington Chess News

Feng vs. Raptis State Champions Match

By Josh Sinanan

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The 2015 WA vs. OR State Champions match between FM Roland Feng and FM Nick Raptis took place November 13-15 at Seattle Chess Club. This year it was Nick's turn to make the drive up to Seattle since Oregon hosted last year's match between Nick and FM Nat Koons, which ended in an exciting 3-3 tie featuring all decisive games. This year's match ran concurrently alongside the SCC Extravaganza, in which Nick also played simultaneously and even managed to tie for first place with Viktors Pupols! The time control of game in 90 minutes with a 30 second increment made for exciting games, most of which lasted deep into the endgame. Roland won the match 3.5-2.5, scoring two wins, three draws, and one loss and collected the \$300 first place prize. Nick won \$200 for his runner-up finish and played an astounding 14 games over three days, which must be some kind of SCC record. The match was organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan and directed by Fred Kleist.

Going into the match, Roland was a slight rating favorite at 2403 to Nick's 2378, but Nick held the psychological advantage of having never lost to Roland before in a classical game. Stylistically, it was an interesting matchup, with both players preferring to play conservatively in the opening and trying grind out small advantages in the endgame. In the first two games of the match, each player's opening preparation was revealed: Roland was going with the Smyslov System against Nick's King's Indian, while Nick was playing 1. e4 and trying to bust the "Rolanstein" French. Over the course of the match, both players stayed true to their preparation with white, but Nick varied his approach with the black pieces. Nick played the Wade Defense in round 3 and adopted a Benko set-up in round 5 against Roland's Queen's Gambit, obtaining equality from the opening in both games. Unfortunately for Nick, simuling a 2400 plus another strong opponent in the Extravaganza eventually took its toll, and he wound up in serious time pressure in a few games, with only two minutes left on his clock in both games of round 5! As only Nick could, he managed to win his Extravaganza game against a 1900



Roland Feng (left) vs. Nick Raptis (right) at the beginning of game one of their match. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

and was almost able to set up a fortress position against Roland in a K+R+3P vs. K+Q+2P endgame. Thanks to both Nick and Roland for taking part in the match and for being such great ambassadors for chess in the Northwest!

Roland Feng (2403) – Nick Raptis (2378) [E61]

2015 WA vs. OR State Champions Match Seattle, WA (R1), November 13, 2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Bg5 0-0 5.Nf3 d6 6.e3 c5 7.d5 h6 8.Bh4 Bf5 9.Nd2 Qb6 10.Qc1 g5 11.Bg3 Nh5 12.Be2 Nxg3 13.hxg3 Nd7 14.a4 Qd8 15.g4 Bg6 16.Nde4 Qa5 17.0-0 Be5 18.f4 gxf4 19.exf4 Bd4+ 20.Kh1 f5 21.gxf5 Bxf5 22.g4 Bh7 23.f5 Bg7 24.Qc2 Kh8 25.Ra3 Ne5 26.Nd1 Nf7 27.Rh3 Bf6 28.Ndf2 Rg8 29.Nd3 Ng5 30.Nxg5 hxg5 31.Kg2 Rg7 32.Rfh1 Rf8 33.Nf2 Rff7 34.Ne4 Qb4 35.Bd1 b6 36.b3 Qa3 37.Re1 Be5 38.Rh5 Bf4 39.f6 exf6 40.Nxf6 Be5 41.Nxh7 Rxh7 42.Reh1 Rxh5 43.Rxh5+ Kg8 44.Rxg5+ Kf8 45.Rf5 Qb2 46.Qxb2 Bxb2 47.Rh5 Rf4 48.g5 Rd4 49.Be2 Rd2 50.Kf1 Kg7 51.Rh6 Be5 52.Re6 Rb2 53.Bh5 Rxb3 54.Re7+ Kf8 55.Rf7+ Kg8 56.Rxa7 Rb4 57.Bg4 Rxc4 58.Be6+ Kf8 59.Rf7+ Ke8 60.g6 Rc1+ 61.Kg2 Rc2+ 62.Kf3 Rc3+ 63.Kg4 Rg3+ 64.Kh5 c4 65.Bd7+ Kd8 66.Bg4 c3 67.g7 Rxg4 68.Kxg4 Bxg7

69.Rf4 Kc7 70.Kf3 Be5 71.Rf7+ Kb8 72.Ke2 Kc8 73.Kd3 Kb8 74.Re7 Kc8 75.Kc2 Kb8 76.Rh7 Kc8 77.Kb3 Kb8 78.Re7 Kc8 79.Rh7 Kb8 80.Rh4 Kb7 81.Rb4 Ka6 82.Re4 b5 83.axb5+ Kxb5 84.Rc4 Bf6 85.Rc6 Be5 86.Ka3 Bd4 87.Kb3 Be5 88.Kc2 Kb4 89.Kd3 Kb5 90.Kc2 Kb4 91.Kd3 Kb5 92.Kc2 ¹/2-¹/2

Nick Raptis (2378) – Roland Feng (2403) [C11]

2015 WA vs. OR State Champions Match Seattle, WA (R2), November 14, 2015

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 a6 8.Qd2 b5 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.Bxc5 Nxc5 11.Bd3 Qb6 12.Qf2 b4 13.Ne2 Na4 14.Qxb6 Nxb6 15.Ned4 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Bd7 17.a3 bxa3 18.Rxa3 a5 19.b3 Ke7 20.Kd2 a4 21.bxa4 Rxa4 22.Rxa4 Nxa4 23.Rb1 Nc5 24.Ra1 Rb8 25.Ra7 Rb7 26.Rxb7 Nxb7 27.Kc3 h6 28.h4 Nd8 29.Kb4 f6 30.Kc5 fxe5 31.fxe5 Nf7 32.Nf3 g5 33.hxg5 hxg5 34.Kd4 Nd8 35.g4 Nf7 36.Bg6 Nh6 37.Bh5 Ba4 38.Kd3 Bb5+ 39.Ke3 Ba4 40.Kd2 Be8 41.Nxg5 Bxh5 42.gxh5 Ng4 43.Nf3 Kf7 44.Kd3 Kg7 45.Kd4 Kh6 46.Kc5 Ne3 47.Nd4 Nc4 48.Nxe6 Nxe5 49.Kxd5 Ng4 50.Kd4 Kxh5 51.c4 Kg6 52.c5 Kf6 53.Kd5 Ne3+ 54.Kd6 Nc4+ 55.Kd7 Ne5+ 56.Kd6 Nc4+ 57.Kd5 Ne3+ 58.Kd4 Kxe6 59.Kxe3 Kd5 60.Kd3 Kxc5 1/2-1/2

Roland Feng (2403) – Nick Raptis (2379) [A53]

2015 WA vs. OR State Champions Match Seattle, WA (R3), November 14, 2015 [Roland Feng]

1.d4

The previous two games had been hard fought draws, so I went into this knowing it was going to be a difficult game.

1...Nf6 2.c4 d6 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.e3

Qb3 was probably better.

4...Nbd7 5.Nc3 c6 6.h3 Bh5 7.Be2 e5 8.0–0 Be7 9.b3 0–0 10.Bb2 Re8 11.dxe5

Spying an opportunity to win a pawn and not seeing any immediate repercussions, I go for it.

11...dxe5 12.Nxe5?!

Even though this wins a pawn, the awkward placement of my pieces at the end give Black more than enough compensation.

12...Nxe5

12...Bxe2 13.Nxe2 Nxe5 14.Bxe5±

13.Bxh5 Nd3 14.Na4



Position after 14.Na4

The other move was to go Bc1, but that just looks bad and allows for tricks along the a1-h8 diagonal. 14.Rb1?? Nxb2! 15.Rxb2 Qa5-+; 14.Bc1 Nxh5 15.Qxh5 Bf6 16.Bd2 Nf4! 17.Qd1 Bxc3 18.Bxc3 Qxd1-+ With Ne2+ to follow.

14...Nxb2

14...b5? 15.cxb5 cxb5 16.Be2! This saves the piece.

15.Nxb2 Nxh5

15...Ba3 This was the correct way to proceed. 16.Rb1 Ne4 The awkward positioning of my pieces makes it very hard to find a defense.

16.Qxh5 Qd2 17.Rab1 Bf6 18.Rfd1 Qc2 19.Rdc1 Qd2 20.Qf5!

Allows me to keep my extra pawn.

20...Bxb2 21.Rc2 Qb4!

Although he's down a pawn, Nick's pieces are active enough to make it hard for me to try to convert it.

22.Rcxb2 Rad8 23.Qc2 Re6 24.Rd1

Red6 25.Rbb1 Rd2 26.Rxd2 Rxd2

Qxd2 may have been better.

27.Qe4 g6 28.Qe8+ Qf8 29.Qe5 Qd8!



Position after 29...Qd8

I completely missed this move. The queen is very strong on d8, preventing Qa5 and maintaining control over the d-file.

30.Rb2 Rxb2?

I thought trading rooks was unnecessary and made it easier for me. His rook was better than mine.

31.Qxb2 Qd1+ 32.Kh2 Qd6+ 33.f4 b6 34.Qd4 Qa3 35.e4?

Seeing that he was in time pressure, I try to go for a quick kill. While this looks dangerous for Black, with the correct defense he should now be able to hold the draw.

35...Qxa2 36.f5



Position after 36.f5

36...Qa3

36...Qxb3 37.Qd8+ Kg7 38.f6+ Kh6 39.Qd2+ g5 (39...Kh5 40.g4+ Kh4 41.Qh6#) 40.h4+-

37.f6 Qf8 38.e5 h5 39.Qd7 Qb8 40.Qd6 Qe8 41.Qe7 Qc8!

I missed this. If I take the pawn on a7, his queen comes to f5 will be able to either give perpetual or win my e and f pawns.

42.Kg3 a5

42...Qf5 43.Qe8+ Kh7 44.Qxf7+ Kh6 45.Qg7+ Kg5 46.h4#

43.Kh4 b5

43...Qf5 44.Qe8+ Kh7 45.Qxf7+ Kh6 46.Qg7#

44.g4 hxg4 45.hxg4 a4 46.bxa4 bxa4

Now we see how important that a2 pawn was. The passed pawn gives him lots of counterplay.

47.Kg5 Qa8 48.c5



Position after 48.c5

Ignoring a3 due to the fact that e6! is very strong and poses huge problems for him.

48...Qf8??

The game losing blunder. Had he played Qc8, the game likely would have ended in a draw by repetition. 48...Qc8 49.Kh6 Qf8+ 50.Kg5 Qc8 51.Qa7 Qe8 52.Qe7= I have nothing better than to repeat.

49.e6!!

He can't take on e7 because I will queen, and he can't take on e6 due to Kxg6.

49...a3

49...fxe6 50.Kxg6+- Interestingly, the black queen is completely helpless to stop mate. She can give no checks, and trading queens will allow another white queen to appear the move after on e8.

50.Qa7 a2 51.e7 Qc8 52.Qxa2 Qb8 53.Qb2

Not the most accurate move on the account that he can prolong the game with Kh7, but good enough to win.

53...Qe8

53...Kh7 54.Qxb8 Stalemate. (54.Qe2 Qc8 55.e8Q?? Qxe8= Can't recapture due to stalemate!)

54.Kh6

Stopping any Kh7 ideas.

54...Kh8 55.Qd4 Qg8 56.Qd8

Nick resigned here, marking the first time I beat him. He defended superbly until Qf8, and overall, good game to both of us.

1–0

Nick Raptis (2378) – Roland Feng (2403) [C10]

2015 WA vs. OR State Champions Match Seattle, WA (R4), November 14, 2015

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Nxf6+ Nxf6 8.Bd3 h6 9.Bh4 c5 10.0-0 cxd4 11.Nxd4 0-0 12.Re1 Nd5 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Qf3 Qf6 15.Qxf6 Nxf6 16.Rad1 Bd7 17.Bc4 Rac8 18.Bb3 Rfd8 19.c3 Kf8 20.f3 Ng8 21.Kf2 Ne7 22.Re2 a6 23.Red2 Ke8 24.g3 Nc6 25.f4 Nxd4 26.Rxd4 Bc6 27.Ke3 Rxd4 28.Rxd4 Ke7 29.Bc2 Rd8 30.Rxd8 Kxd8 31.Kd4 Kd7 32.c4 b6 33.c5 b5 34.b4 f6 35.h4 Ke7 36.Be4 Bxe4 37.Kxe4 Kd7 38.Kf3 Kc7 39.Kg4 Kc6 40.Kh5 Kd5 41.Kg6 e5 42.fxe5 fxe5 43.Kf5 e4 44.c6 g6+ 45.Kf4 Kxc6 46.Kxe4 Kd6 47.Kd4 Ke6 48.g4 Kd6 49.h5 gxh5 50.gxh5 Ke6 51.Kc5 Kf5 52.Kb6 Kg5 53.Kxa6 Kxh5 54.Kxb5 Kg4 55.a4 h5 56.a5 1–0

Roland Feng (2403) – Nick Raptis (2378) [E61] 2015 WA vs. OR State Champions Match Seattle, WA (5), 15.11.2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Bg5 0-0 5.Nf3 c5 6.d5 b5 7.cxb5 a6 8.bxa6 Bxa6 9.e4 Bxf1 10.Kxf1 d6 11.h3 Nbd7 12.Kg1 Qa5 13.Qc2 Rfb8 14.Rb1 Nb6 15.b3 Ne8 16.Bd2 Qa3 17.Kh2 Nc7 18.Rhd1 Nd7 19.Bc1 Qa5 20.Bb2 Bxc3 21.Bxc3 Qxa2 22.Rb2 Qa3 23.Rbb1 Qa2 24.Qd3 Rxb3 25.Ra1 Qxa1 26.Rxa1 Rxa1 27.Qc2 Rxc3 28.Qxc3 Ra8 29.Qb3 Rb8 30.Qa4 Nb5 31.Nd2 Nf6 32.Qb3 Nd7 33.f4 Kf8 34.Nc4 Nd4 35.Qa4 Nf6 36.e5 dxe5 37.Qa7 Rd8 38.d6 exd6 39.fxe5 Ne8 40.exd6 Nxd6 41.Qxc5 N4b5 42.Ne5 Kg7 43.Nc6 Re8 44.Nd4 Nxd4 45.Qxd4+ f6 46.Qxd6 Re5 47.Kg3 h5 48.Qd7+ Kg8 49.Qa7 Rg5+ 50.Kh2 Re5 51.Qd7 h4 52.Kg1 g5 53.Kf2 Kf8 54.Kf3 Re7 55.Qd8+ Kf7 56.Kg4 Re8 57.Qd5+ Kg6 58.Qf5+ Kf7 59.Qd7+ Re7 60.Qd5+ Kg6 61.Qf5+ Kg7 62.Kh5 Kf7 63.Qg6+ Ke6 64.Qg8+ Kf5 65.Qd5+ Re5 66.Qf3+ 1-0

Nick Raptis (2378) – Roland Feng (2403) [C10] 2015 WA vs. OR State Champions Match Seattle, WA (R6), November 15, 2015

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ Nxf6 7.c3 Be7 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 b6 10.Qe2 Bb7 11.Bf4 Rc8 12.Ne5 c5 13.dxc5 Rxc5 14.Rfd1 Qa8 15.f3 Nh5 16.Bd2 Rd8 17.f4 Rxe5 18.fxe5 Bc5+ 19.Kf1 Rxd3 20.Qxd3 Bxg2+ 21.Ke1 Be4 22.Qe2 Bf3 23.Qd3 Be4 24.Qe2 Bf3 25.Qd3 Be4 26.Qe2 Bf3 27.Qd3 ¹/₂-¹/₂

Washington Blitz Championship

By Gary Dorfner

The Washington Blitz Championship was held on October 17, 2015 at the Seattle Chess Club in two sections, Open and Scholastic. 31 Players participated in the open section and 6 in the scholastic section. The winners were: Open first Ray Kaufman 11.0, second Daniel He 10.5, third Samuel He 10.0. In the scholastic



IM Ray Kaufman at the Washington Blitz Championship. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

section Owen Xuan took first, Daniel Shubin finished second and Bennett Rosenberg was third. The tournament director was Fred Kleist.

Washington Bughouse Championship

By Gary Dorfner

The Washington Bughouse Championship was held on the same day As the Blitz Championship. It too was held at the Seattle Chess Club. Eight teams participated in this event. The winning teams were: First Ramasamy-Olin, second Pothukuchi-Puri and Thakur-Lawler 6.0 each.

Tacoma Chess Club Championship

By Gary Dorfner

The Tacoma Chess Club Championship was held at the club October 9, 16, 30 and November 6. There were 12 members participating in this tournament. The winners were first Paul Bartron 2015 Tacoma Chess Club Champion, second Mike MacGregor, third Mike Rompogren, Class A Tom Walker, Class B Steve Buck, Class C David Eva, No Class D, Class E Ron Taylor, Tacoma Chess Club Senior Champion Rich Sewell, Upsets; R-1 None, R-2 None, R-3 Paul Bartron, R-4 Tom Walker. The tournament director was Gary Dorfner.



2nd graders Benjamin Ta and Isobel Chi (left) vs. 7th graders Aidan Lawler and Asher Thakur (right) at the Washington Bughouse Championship.Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

Washington Challenger's Cup

By Gary Dorfner

The Washington Challenger's Cup was held at the Seattle Chess Club on November 8, 2015. There were 59 players participating in this Event. The winners were: Open first-second GM Dmitry Skorchenko and Viktors Pupols 3.5 \$150.00 each, third Nick Raptis, Tian Sang, Bryce Tiglon, IM Ray Kaufman and FM Curt Collyer 3.0 each. Reserve first Travis Elisara 5.0 \$250.00, secondthird Neil Bonrud and Ishaan Puri \$75.00



Dmitry Skorchenko tied for first with Viktors Pupols at the Washington Challenger's Cup. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

each. First U1600/U1400 Ethan Wu and Matt Hwang 3.5 \$100.00 each. U1200/ Unr. Andy Tien, Jared Huang, Kyle Zhang and Hongning Wang 2.5 \$25.00 each. The tournament director was Fred Kleist.

The Challenger's Cup Scholastic was held on Saturday October 31, 2015. 53 players showed up to participate in this event. The winners were; K-3 U800 first James Frasca 5.0, second Anderson Foong and Justin Lu 3.5. K-3 Open first-second Advith Vijayakumar and Brandon Jiang 4.0 each. 4-6 U900 first Nicholas Schwarzbeck 5.0, second-third Srivanth Doddala and Eli Waite 3.5 each. 4-6 Open first Daniel Shubin 4.5, second Owen Xuan 4.0, third Jack Little 3.5. The tournament director was David Hendricks.

Eastside Chess Championship

By Gary Dorfner

The Eastside Chess Championship was held at the Burger King in Issaquah on November 21, 2015 in two sections, Adult and Scholastic. There were nine players in all. The winners in the Adult Section first Michael Piper, second Juan Crawford, third Scott Piper. In the Scolastic Section first went to Gavin Clark, second was claimed by Lincoln Smith, third won by Alexa Clark, fourth Mason Grutzner. Prizes were trophies. The tournament director was Gary Dorfner.

Washington Class Championship and Side Events

By Gary Dorfner

The Washington Class Championship was held at the North Seattle Community College on Thanksgiving weekend November 27-29. 173 players participated in this event. Master Class first Roland Feng 5.0 \$500.00, second Nick Raptis 4.5 \$350.00, third/first U2300 Bill Schill and Joshua Doknjas \$137.50 each, second U2300 Daniel He and Jerry Sherrard 3.5 \$37.50 each.

Expert Class first Paul Bartron 4.5 \$400.00, second-third Chouchanik Airapetian and Naomi Bashkansky 4.0 \$212.50 each, first-second U2100 Ben Brusniak and Mike Hosford 3.5 \$87.50 each. Class A first Vikram Ramasamy 6.0 \$300.00, second Travis Olson 4.5 \$200.00, third/first U1900 Tim Campbell and Ananth Gottumukkala 4.0 \$112.50 each, second U1900 Brent Baxter, Trey Michaels and Fred Davis 3.5 \$25.00 each. Class B first Robin Tu 4.5 \$300.00, second/third/first U1700 David Kriewall, Francisco Lopez and Rajesh Shanmukam 4.0 \$141.67 each, second U1700 Brian Chen, Dominic Armstrong, Catherine Smith and Travis Elisara 3.5 \$18.75 each. Class C first Jason Zhang 5.0 \$300.00, second/third/first-second U1500 Artjom Menkov, Dan Shubin, Ethan Wu and Fred Smolak 4.0 \$125.00 each. Class D first Brandan Jiang 5.0 \$300.00, second Jacob Zarzhevskiy 4.5 \$200.00, third/ first U1300 Dan Wilke and Jasen Reeves 4.0 \$112.50 each, second U1300 David Humphrey 3.5 \$75.00. Class E first Graham Cobden 5.0 \$200.00, second Aniruddha Barua \$125.00, third Krish Jain and Dan Qian 4.0 \$50.00 each, first U1000 Andrew Jiang 4.0 \$100.00, first U800/Unr. Andrew Borthwick, Roman Chivers and Ken Chen 3.0 \$25.00 each.

Washington Class Blitz. 17 players participated in this side event. Winners were; first Dmitry Skorchenko \$104.00, second Nick Raptis \$72.00, first U2000 Man Tran Quang \$48.00, first U1700 Francisco Lopez \$48.00. The tournament directors were Fred Kleist and Gary Dorfner.

The Thanksgiving Scholastic was held on November 27, 2015 at the site. There were 140 students participating in this event. Some of them also played in the Class on Saturday and Sunday. The winners K-3 Open first Christopher Soetedjo 5-0, second/third/fourth Rushaan Mahajan, Stephanie Velea and Anne Frasca 4.0. K-3



Josh Sinanan (left) and Dan Mathews at the Washington Class Championships. Photo credit: Victoria Doknjas.

U800 first Tung Duong 4.5, second/third/ fourth Miguel Soto-Eisenberg, Aureole Chang and Gavin Shi 4.0 each. 4-6 Open first George Michailov 5.0, second/third/ fourth/fifth Toby Black, Forest Berg, Brandon Jiang and Anirudh Rajesh 4.0 each. 4-6 U900 first Gareth Tatum 4.5, second/third Ethan Martin and Mary Deng 4.0 each. 7-12 Open first/second Joseph Truelson and Ryan Cho 4.0 each. second/third Owen Xuan and Rohit Gupta 3.5 each. Teams first Cascadia, second Shelton View, third Bear Creek. Prizes for all sections were medals and trophies. The tournament director was David Hendricks.

Games from Washington Class Championship

The following are games submitted by readers from the Washington Class Championship.—Editor

William Schill (2264) – Samuel He (2218) [B07] WA Class Championships Seattle, WA (R3), November 28, 2015 [William Schill]



The playing hall at the Washington Class Championships. Photo credit: Victoria Doknjas.

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.f4 Qa5 5.Bd3 e5 6.Nf3 exd4

I had expected 6...Bg4 which was popular hereabouts a decade ago.

7.Nxd4 g6 8.Nb3

My first plan was to restrain Black on the queenside. If I get this position again I think I will play 8.Nf3 instead.

8...Qc7 9.a4 b6

Black, correctly, does not want to allow 9...a5 unless b5 in reply works well.

10.0-0 Bg7 11.Qe1 0-0 12.Qh4 Nbd7 13.f5 a6 14.Bg5

Position after 14.Bg5

14...Bb7

This seemed one too many queenside moves to me. So I spent some time looking for an unexpected move.

15.e5!

Not only will a black pawn on 15.e5 impede defenders the white pieces get to use e4.

15...dxe5 16.Ne4 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 c5 18.f6

This pawn looks great, but the time required to bring the knight over on b3 into action gives Black breathing room.

18...Bh8 19.Nd2 Rfd8 20.Bxb7 Qxb7 21.Rae1

I had intended 21.Ra3 to h3, the center needed attention however.

21...Nxf6?! 22.Nf3!

Position after 22.Nf3

22...Rd6?!

I dismissed I bet Samuel did too. 22...e4 as losing to simply 23.Bxf6 Bxf6 24.Qxf6 exf3 25.Re7 but here the black queen is not on the usual c7 square and after 25...

William Schill. Photo courtesy of William Schill.

Qd5 White has nothing much. I hope I would have taken the time to choose 23. Ne5 with advantage, but who knows? Black replies Nh5 with complications.

23.Nxe5 Rd4 24.g4! Nxg4

24...Nh5! Loses in a more complicated fashion.

25.Rxf7 Qxf7 26.Nxf7 1-0

Daniel Wilke (1360) – Brandon Jiang (1204) [C68] WA Class Championships Seattle, WA (R6), November 29, 2015 [Brandon Jiang]

I choose this game to annotate because this is the most important game in the tournament. Before the game, both Daniel and I had four points and were leaders of the U1400 section (Andy Tien and Jasen Reeves were other players with 4 points); the winner of this game would at least share the first place of U1400 section.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.Nc3 Bd6

5...f6 is more accurate; but I played 5..Bd6 before and won that game. This time I am unlucky that Daniel chose the strongest moves against my Bd6 line.

6.d4 exd4 7.Qxd4 f6 8.Be3 Ne7 9.0-0-0 0-0?! 10.Qc4+ Kh8 11.Bc5 b5

This is an aggressive move; I want to attack the queen and start the pawn storm in the queenside. 11...Ng6 is more cautious and probably is a better move. But I want to be more aggressive and win the game.

12.Qe2 Bb7 13.Nd4 Qc8

I see his knight is going to invade e6, I want to stop it. Of course not 13...Bxc5?

14.Ne6 Qb8 15.Nxc5 White is better.

14.Nb3 Bxc5?!

I lose my patience and get myself into a difficult situation.

15.Nxc5 a5 16.Rd7 Ng6 17.f4? Nxf4 18.Qg4 Ng6 19.Rhd1 Rg8 20.Qh5 Ne5 21.R7d2?!

I am relieved when he retrieves the rook, his rook is not annoying me anymore in the 7th rank. He probably should play Re7. 21.Re7 b4 22.N3a4 my attack is going nowhere.

21...a4 22.Ne2 a3 23.Nd3??

Position after 23.Nd3

This is a serious mistake. My opponent allows me to open a file! I think I am winning now. 23.b3 to make queenside files closed is better.

23...axb2+ 24.Kxb2 Nc4+ 25.Kb1 Nxd2+ 26.Rxd2 Qe6 27.Nc3 Qe7 28.Nf4 Qe8 29.Qh4 b4 30.Rd7 bxc3

of course not taking the rook, I have already seen Ng6 checkmate.

31.Re7 h6?

This is my final mistake. I thought that this was the only way to stop the

Brandon Jiang with his 2nd place trophy in the Thanksgiving Scholastic. Photo Credit: Stephen Jiang.

checkmate and I still thought I was ahead of material even after giving up the queen for the rook. 31...Rd8 32.a4 Rd4 33.Rxe8 Rxe8 34.Ng6+ Kg8 35.Qg3 Rb4+ 36.Kc1 hxg6 winning.

32.Rxe8 Raxe8 33.Nh5 Rd8 34.a3?

Now Daniel made a big mistake; but I attack too directly, I should play Ba6! first and he could not stop my attack.

34...Rd1+

34...Ba6 35.Qg4 (35.Kc1 Be2! 36.Qe1 Bxh5) 35...Rd2 36.e5 Be2!

35.Ka2 Ba6 36.a4??

This is Daniel's final and fatal mistake; I calculate and find a forced checkmate in four 36.Kb3 likely saves the game.

36...Rb8 37.e5 Rb2+ 38.Ka3 Ra1#

A lot of mistakes in this game, but I finally win! And my friend Andy beat Jasen and I become the only winner in U1400 section!

0–1

Revanth Pothukuchi (1516) – Jason Zhang (1509) [C56]

WA Class Championships Seattle, WA (R6), November 29, 2015 [Jason Zhang]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4

Expecting the Scotch Game, to get instead the Scotch Gambit.

4...Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.e5 Ng4 7.Re1

Though I think that Bf4 is better, my opponent played Re1.

7...d6 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.h3 Nf6 10.Bg5 0-0 11.Bh4

A little weird how White played Bg5 and retreated to the h4 square without any threat to the bishop.

11...Bf5 12.a3 Rae8 13.Bg3 Qd7 14.Bb5 Bc5 15.Ne5 Qe6 16.Nd2 Qc8 17.Nxc6 bxc6 18.Bxc6

Rxe8 would of been much better and would of avoided the loss of the pawn on c2.

18...Rxe1+ 19.Qxe1 Bxc2 20.Rc1 d3 21.Bh4 Bd4 22.Bxf6 Bxf6 23.Nc4 Qa6 24.Bd5 c6

There goes a piece.

25.Bxf7+ Rxf7 26.Qe8+ Rf8 27.Qe6+ Kh8 28.Nd6

In desperate need for compensation.

28...h6 29.Nf7+ Rxf7 30.Qxf7 d2

and the pawn promotes.

31.Ra1 d1Q+ 32.Rxd1 Bxd1 33.Qe8+ Kh7 34.Qe4+ g6

Failed perpetual check due to the bishop guarding the e7 square.

Jason Zhang outside his house in Sammamish. Photo Credit: Jijian Zhang.

35.Qe8 Qe2 36.Qxe2 Bxe2

Black basically won.

37.b4 Bd1 38.Kf1 Bb3

Blocks pawns from advancing.

39.Ke2 Bb2

Creates mini wall with the bishops.

40.Kd2 Bxa3 41.Kc3 Bd5 42.g3 c5 43.bxc5 Bxc5 44.Kb2 Bxf2 45.Ka1 a5

Prevention of stalemate by not taking the pawns.

46.h4 a4 47.h5 a3 48.Kb1 a2+ 49.Kc2 a1Q 50.Kd3 Qd4+

Mate in 51.Ke2 Qe3+ 52.Kd1

If White moved Kf1, then Black moves Qe1 with checkmate.

52...Bb3# 0-1

U.S. Chess League

Week 2: 9-1-2015

Minnesota Blizzard vs. Seattle Sluggers

Week 2 Report

By Mark Trevor Smith and Curt Collyer

In the second week of the US Chess League season, the Seattle Sluggers scored a convincing 3-1 victory over the Minnesota Blizzard.

In an energetic game on board one, IM Georgi Orlov lost on the black side of a Nimzo-Indian (starting with the Two Knights' Tango) to IM John Bartholomew. Orlov's piece play on the kingside was vigorous, but his queenside development lagged. 21...Qg6 seemed, to Fritz, to be the tipping point as the evaluation jumped from +0.68 to +2.1.

While that loss unfolded, IM Michael Lee gained an advantage in his English against IM Sean Nagle. To those of us in the commentary room, Lee's position seemed to be accomplishing very little until it suddenly accomplished very much, especially after Black's self-destructive 18...Ke7. The hand of a magician created a rout out of a molehill.

David Golub's Benko Gambit looked smooth against Kevin Wasiluk. Golub's grip strengthened bit by bit as he dominated the a and b files and eventually captured White's passed a pawn. He made it look easy and will no doubt influence others to play the Benko.

Bill Schill varied from GM practice on move 10 against a Sicilian Najdorf played by Andrew Titus, soon winning a pawn and nursing the small advantage to victory. A big slip by Titus on move 52 enabled Schill to convert to a pawn race in which he queened well ahead. Schill's skillful grit paid off in the longest game of the match.

Final score of the match: Seattle 3.0 - Minnesota 1.0

John Bartholomew (2555) – Georgi Orlov (2528) [E33] USCL Week 2 Internet Chess Club (Board 1), September 1, 2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 e6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Qc2 d6 6.Bd2 0-0 7.a3 Bxc3 8.Bxc3 Qe7 9.e3 e5 10.d5 Nb8 11.Nd2 Ng4 12.Bd3 f5 13.h3 Qh4 14.Nf3 Qh6 15.0-0-0 Nxe3 16.fxe3 e4 17.Bxe4 Qxe3+ 18.Nd2 fxe4 19.Rde1 Qh6 20.Qxe4 Bf5 21.Qe3

Position after 21.Qe3

21...Qg6 22.g4 Bd7 23.h4 Re8 24.h5 Qf7 25.Qd4 Na6 26.Ref1 Qe7 27.h6 Nc5 28.hxg7 Qe5 29.Qxe5 Nd3+ 30.Kb1 Nxe5 31.Ne4 Nxg4 32.Ng5 h6 33.Nf7 Kh7 34.Nxh6 Nxh6 35.Rf6 Kxg7 36.Rxd6+ Kf8 37.Rxd7 Nf7 38.Rf1 1–0

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(253) 229-9646 neilsalmon@gmail.com Michael Lee (2503) – Sean Nagle (2542) [A37] USCL Week 2 Internet Chess Club (Board 2), September 1, 2015

1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.g3 c5 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.Nf3 a6 6.0–0 Rb8 7.e3 d6 8.d4 Bg4 9.dxc5 dxc5 10.Qxd8+ Rxd8 11.Na4 Na5 12.Nd2 b5 13.cxb5 axb5 14.Nxc5 Nf6 15.h3 Bd7 16.b4 Nc6 17.Rb1 e6 18.Bb2

Position after 18.Bb2

18...Ke7 19.Nxd7 Rxd7 20.Bxc6 Rxd2 21.Bxb5 Rhd8 22.a4 Bh6 23.Bc6 Nh5 24.b5 R8d3 25.Bc1 Ra2 26.b6 Rd8 27.b7 Rb8 28.Rd1 Nf6 29.Bb2 Nd5 30.Bxd5 exd5 31.Be5 1–0

Kevin Wasiluk (2317) – David Golub (2321) [A57] USCL Week 2 Internet Chess Club (Board 3), September 1, 2015

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 g6 6.Nc3 Bg7 7.e3 0–0 8.Nf3 Qa5 9.Nd2 Bxa6 10.Nc4 Bxc4 11.Bxc4 Ne4 12.Bd2 Nxd2 13.Qxd2 d6 14.0–0 Nd7 15.a4 Rfb8 16.Ra3 Qb4

Position after 16...Qb4

Michael Lee, David Golub, and William Schill celebrate the Sluggers win over Minnesota at Red Robin. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

17.Bd3 Nb6 18.Rfa1 Nxd5 19.Bf1 Nc7 20.R3a2 d5 21.Qc2 c4 22.a5 e6 23.a6 Ra7 24.Nd1 Qb6 25.e4 Rxa6 26.Ne3 Rxa2 27.Rxa2 Bd4 28.exd5 exd5 29.Qd2 Re8 30.Nc2 Bxb2 31.Qf4 Be5 32.Qg4 Qb3 0-1

William Schill (2236) – Andrew Titus (2189) [B99] USCL Week 2 Internet Chess Club (Board 4), September 1, 2015

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Nbd7 9.0-0-0 Qc7 10.f5 Ne5 11.Qh3 Nfg4 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Qg3 Qg5+ 14.Kb1 Qe3 15.Nf3 Qf2 16.Rxd6 Qxg3 17.hxg3 Ke7 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.Rd4 h6 20.Be2 Bd7 21.Rh5 Nc6 22.Rd1 Rhd8 23.Bf3 Be8 24.Rhh1 Ne5 25.Kc1 Rxd1+ 26.Rxd1 Rd8 27.Rxd8 Kxd8 28.fxe6 fxe6 29.Be2 Ke7 30.Kd2 Kd6 31.Ke3 Kc5 32.a3 g5 33.Nd1 Kd6 34.Nf2 a5 35.Kd4 Nc6+ 36.Ke3 Ne5 37.b4 b6 38.c4 Nc6 39.Nd3 e5 40.Bg4 Bf7 41.c5+ bxc5 42.bxc5+ Kc7 43.Bd1 Be6 44.Ba4 Kb7 45.Kd2 Kc7 46.Kc3 Nd4 47.Bd1 Nb5+ 48.Kb2 Kc6 49.Ba4 Bg8 50.Nxe5+ Kxc5 51.Nd7+ Kc6 52.Nf6 Be6

Position after 52...Be6

53.Nd5 Bxd5 54.exd5+ Kc5 55.Bxb5 Kxb5 56.Kb3 a4+ 57.Kc3 Kc5 58.d6 Kxd6 59.Kb4 h5 60.Kxa4 h4 61.Kb5 Ke5 62.a4 Kf5 63.a5 Kg4 64.gxh4 gxh4 65.a6 Kg3 66.a7 Kxg2 67.a8Q+ Kh2 68.Qg8 h3 69.Qg4 1-0

Northwest Chess

By NM Daniel He and NM Samuel He

Hello readers! This month's focus will be on novelties. A novelty is a move which has rarely - or never – been played in a serious game. While following accepted theory is generally the recommended way to play chess, finding novelties will surely surprise your opponent and may end in your favor, as the examples will show! The first game will be between Carlsen and Topalov from the Sinquefield Cup. I believe this game was very inspirational as it was clear that Topalov was better prepared, and was going for the win from the beginning, despite being black against the World Champion!

Magnus Carlsen (2853) – Veselin Topalov (2816) [B51] 3rd Sinquefield Cup (R1), August 23, 2015 [Samuel He]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7

Carlsen decides to play strategically, and Topalov responds with the most aggressive option, one that is ideal when playing for a win.

4.0-0 Ngf6 5.Re1 a6 6.Bd3 b5 7.c4

Position after 7.c4

While c4 is the most popular move in this position, it looks strange blocking in the d3 bishop behind his own pawns. Topalov's next move shows great ambition to take advantage of the "dubious" c4.

7...g5!

Surprisingly, this move has never been played before! After playing through this game multiple times, such g-pawn attacks began to seem completely logical! This pawn move sacrifices a pawn in exchange for an open g-file to attack the king. If Carlsen does not capture the pawn, Topalov may play an eventual g5g4, followed by Nd7-e5, which may make the d3 bishop even worse than it is now.

8.Nxg5 Ne5 9.Be2 bxc4

[Diagram top of next column]

Position after 9...bxc4

Here, it is an especially difficult position for Carlsen to defend, as material is now equal.

10.Na3 Rg8 11.Nxc4 Nxc4

Here, Carlsen is already down a piece for some pawns, and he has to try to get some play.

12.d4 Nb6 13.Bh5 Nxh5 14.Qxh5 Rg7

Position after 14...Rg7

At this point, Topalov is up a minor piece for some pawns and some development, but Topalov was able to win convincingly later on when Carlsen couldn't find any meaningful counterplay and was simply down a bishop in an endgame. This was all thanks to Topalov's novelty 7... g5!, which Carlsen was definitely not expecting to see.

15.Nxh7 Qd7 16.dxc5 dxc5 17.e5 Qc6 18.f3 Qg6 19.Nf6+ Kd8 20.Qxg6 Rxg6 21.Ne4 Bb7 22.h4 Rc8 23.h5 Rg8 24.Bd2 Nc4 25.Bc3 Bh6 26.Rad1+ Ke8 27.Rd3 Bf4 28.Nf2 Bc6 29.Nh3 Bg3 30.Re2 Bb5 31.Rd1 Bc6 32.Nf2 Bxe5 33.Ng4 Bxc3 34.bxc3 Kf8 35.Kf2 Rh8 36.Ne5 Nxe5 37.Rxe5 Be8 38.g4 f6 39.Re6 Bb5 40.Rde1 Rc7 0–1

Baadur Jobava (2696) – Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (2759) [A01] Grandprix Tbilisi 2015 Tbilisi (R5), February 20, 2015 [Samuel He]

This game shows an even more unique

novelty in the Nimzo-Larsen Attack as 1.b3 itself is hardly played ever at the top level! This game seriously motivated me to find my own novelties, and I hope it does to you too!

1.b3 Nf6 2.Bb2 g6 3.Nc3!?

This is Jobava's novelty, which has never been played at the top level, and only once by an unknown player. Considering how unnatural this move is, Jobava must've spend a good amount of time researching this move deeply.

3...Bg7 4.d4!?

The second novelty in Jobava's plan, which looks arguably stranger than his third move. This move blocks in his own bishop, but has the intention of castling queenside and getting an attack going! (For those interested in this line as White, see Jobava – Carlsen featured in a previous Chess Groovies!) [see March 2015 issue, page 28—Editor]

4....c5! 5.e3 cxd4 6.exd4 d5

Position after 6...d5

So far, Black has been playing logical moves, hoping to eventually refute the "crazy" white system.

7.Qd2 Nc6 8.0-0-0 Qa5 9.f3

Position after 9.f3

Surprisingly, White's setup is hard to attack, while Jobava has a clear plan of playing g4 and h4, with a simple attack.

9...h5 10.Kb1 Bf5 11.Bd3 Nxd4

It appears that Black has won a pawn, but White definitely has some compensation as Black has a hard time finding a side to castle to, which Jobava takes full advantage of.

12.Nge2 Nxe2 13.Qxe2 Bd7

Trading the bishop would bring the white rook into the attack, and leaving it on f5 may result in White capturing it, ruining the black pawn structure on the kingside.

14.Rhe1 e6 15.Bxg6!?

Position after 15.Bxg6

While this sacrifice is dubious according to the computer, it is definitely scary to face it as every single piece of White's is participating in the attack.

15...fxg6 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.Bxg7 Rg8 18.Qe5 Rxg7

Position after 18...Rxg7

The computer gives this move as the move that loses any possible advantage that Black could have. However, it is understandable as this position is very complicated and difficult to play accurately. The computer gives this position as 0.00, but the complexity of the position got Mamedyarov to mess up and allow checkmate!

19.Rxd5 Qb4 20.Rd6 Kf8 21.Red1 Bc6 22.R1d4 Qb5 23.Rd8+ Rxd8 24.Rxd8+ Ke7 25.Qd6+ Kf6 26.Qd4+ Kf7 27.Qf4+ Ke7 1–0

These two games show the importance of taking novelties into consideration and not to always follow theory blindly. Thanks for reading!

EDWARD ALWAYS HAD A "WINNING" SMILE, BUT PIECE PLACEMENT CONTINUED TO BE A MYSTERY TO HIM.

Be sure to like 'Northwest Chess' on Facebook.

Also, check out nwchess. com/blog/

The 2015 Elmars Zemgalis Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

By Murlin Varner, Administrator

Below are the standings. They are not complete, but there is little you can do about it now. As I write this, there are seven events remaining for the year. As you read this, they are likely all over. All were single point value events, all were on the west side (Seattle, Portland, Tacoma), and yet they still might make a difference.

Idaho's top two are only separated by a single point. Although there are no events in December in Idaho, both Travis Miller and Jeremy Krasin have shown willingness to play outside of Idaho. In Oregon, Mike Hasuike has no way to catch Nick Raptis, but second place in Expert and Class D are still up in the air, and all of Class A is still in play. Mike Munsey has run away with Washington, but again, some class prizes are up for grabs. Class A has four players within 1.5 points in the chase for second place, the top two in Class B are separated by only 8.5 points, and Class D has four players within 11.5 points vying for the top two spots. Tune in next month to see how all these races shook out, or look on line, where I hope to have things posted by mid-January.

Now get going on 2016. January will start with the usual Gresham Open on the first weekend of the New Year (along with Quads at the Seattle Chess Club) and carries double Grand Prix points. The Gresham Open has been on the first full weekend after New Year's Day every year I've done the GP stats (2003-present), save one. In 2005, the Gresham Open was replaced by the New Year's Open in Portland. By the end of January, there will have been eight Grand Prix events, in Seattle (4), Portland (2), Gresham, and Spokane. Included in this tally are the Seattle City Championships, a 2x event, and the Portland Chess Club Game/45 Quads, a new event to the GP line-up. Might as well get out early and build yourself a head start on the others in your Class and State.

The data below are current through December 1st.

	Idaho		Oregon Washington						
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.		last	first	pts.
			Masters						
			1 Raptis	Nick	279.5	1	Pupols	Viktors	168.5
			2 Bjorksten	Lennart	90.5	2	Schill	William J	147.5
			3 Grabinsky	Aaron	64	3	Haining	Kyle	129.5
			4 Haessler	Carl A	41	4	Tiglon	Bryce	90.5
			5 Prochaska	Peter	31	5	Feng	Roland	84
	M/X/Class A		Exp			erts			
1 Miller	Travis J	54	1 Cigan	Jason	108	1	He	Anthony B	170.5
2 Krasin	Jeremy A	53	2 Sherrard	Jerry D	90	2	Yu	Jason	141
3 Bodie	Brad	36	3 Talyansky	Seth D	87	3	Nagase	Toshihiro	103
4 Inman	James	16.5	4 Saputra	Yogi	71	4	Zhang	Brendan	97.5
5 Lucky	David	15	5 Heywood	Bill	68	5	Two	Tied at	82.5
	Class B		Class A						
1 Roland	Jeffrey T	35.5	1 Murray	David E	125	1	Baxter	Brent L	173
2 Naccarato	Savanna	27.5	2 Phipps	Danny	111	2	Bashkansky	Naomi	111
3 Hawkins	Nicholas B	21	3 Zhang	Gavin	101.5	2	Zhang	Eric M	111
4 Griggs	Glenn	18	4 Gaikwad	Dagadu B	85	4	Lee	Addison	110
5 Machin	Alex J	16.5	5 Goffe	Michael P	74	5	Kuhner	Mary K	109.5

Northwest Grand Prix Standings

	Idaho		Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last fir	st pts.	
	Class C				Clas	ISS B		
1 Weyland	Ron	38.5	1 Hasuike	Mike L	203	1 Puri Ish	naan 110	
2 Jaroski	Jeffrey A	27.5	2 Eagles	Roland	129	2 Buck Ste	ephen J 101.5	
3 Zaklan	David A	16	3 Samillano	Jazon	107	3 Tu Ro	bin L 95.5	
4 Lombardi	George	13.5	4 McClain	Jack W	77.5	4 Deng Sa	muel 95	
5 Nathan	Jacob A	12.5	5 Moore	Michael	66	5 Kannan Ad	litya 90	
	Class D				Clas	s C		
1 Hiatt	Arlene	19	1 Berger	Brian F	134	1 Munsey Mi	ichael R 229.5	
2 Porth	Desmond	14	2 Dietz	Arliss	74.5	2 Piper Au	igust 172.5	
3 Porth	Adam	11	3 Kenway	Geoffrey W	53	3 Richards Jer	rold 156.5	
4 Nyblade	Wesley, III	8.5	4 Hansen	James J	46	4 Anand Vi	gnesh 140	
5 Dominick	Matthew T	3	5 Romero	Henry G	41.5	5 Xuan Ov	wen 128.5	
Clas	s E and Below				Class D ar	nd Below		
1 Naccarato	Chris D	12.5	1 Buerer	Harry F	41.5	1 Tien So	phie 90	
2 Fister	Joel S	9	2 Kypriotakis	Kyriakos	35	2 Jiang Br	andon 82.5	
3 Aderogba	Temiloluwa D	8.5	3 Uan-Zo-Li	Sean A	32	3 Zhang Ky	/le 80	
4 Porth	Dylan	8	4 Pai	Kushal	30	4 Tien Ar	ndy 78.5	
5 Catangcatang	Levi	7	5 Gupta	Rohit	27	5 Haining Br	eck 76.5	
			Overall Lea	aders, by State	е			
1 Miller	Travis J	54	1 Raptis	Nick	279.5	1 Munsey Mi	ichael R 229.5	
2 Krasin	Jeremy A	53	2 Hasuike	Mike L	203	2 Baxter Br	ent L 173	
3 Weyland	Ron	38.5	3 Berger	Brian F	134	3 Piper Au	igust 172.5	
4 Bodie	Brad	36	4 Eagles	Roland	129	4 He Ar	thony B 170.5	
5 Roland	Jeffrey T	35.5	5 Murray	David E	125	5 Pupols Vi	ktors 168.5	
6 Naccarato	Savanna	27.5	6 Phipps	Danny	111	6 Richards Jer	rold 156.5	
6 Jaroski	Jeffrey A	27.5	7 Cigan	Jason	108	7 Schill Wi	illiam J 147.5	
8 Hawkins	Nicholas B	21	8 Samillano	Jazon	107	8 Yu Jas	son 141	
9 Hiatt	Arlene	19	9 Zhang	Gavin	101.5	9 Anand Vi	gnesh 140	
10 Griggs	Glenn	18	10 Bjorksten	Lennart	90.5	10 Haining Ky	/le 129.5	
11 Inman	James	16.5	11 Sherrard	Jerry D	90	11 Xuan Ov	ven 128.5	
11 Machin	Alex J	16.5	12 Talyansky	Seth D	87	12 Two Tied	at 111	

From our Business Manager

Happy New Year from *Northwest Chess*! This should be another exciting year, and stay tuned for important changes regarding the use of the online registration system for membership records for Washington residents. If you're not currently in the system, consider registering for free at http:// nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/.

Saturday Quads

DJan. 24, Feb. 21 Sunday Tornado Format: 4-SS. TC: G/60; d5 (or G/64; d0). EF: \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). Prizes: 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 from each EF goes to prize fund). Reg: 10:30-11:15 a.m. Rds: 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. Misc: US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS. NC.

April 3

DJan. 2, 30; Feb. 27

Seattle Chess club Tournaments

7

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Seattle WA 98168

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Look for the Northway Square East Building, just

across I-5 from Northgate Mall, with a large sign

proclaiming "Northwest Kidney Centers." The main

entrance is reached by turning east on N. 107th Street from Meridian Ave. N. The club is on the lower level.

SCC Novice

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. TC: G/75; d5. EF: \$11 by 12/30, \$16 at site. (-\$2 for SCC mem., -\$1 for mem. of other NW duesreq'd CCs). Prizes: Memb (SCC, WCF, US Chess). Reg: 9-9:45a.m. Rds: 10-12:45-3:30-6. Byes: 1 (Rd 3/4–commit at reg.). Misc: US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

On-Line Registration: We hope to have our website set up to take registrations for the Spring Open in March! EFs will be \$2 to \$3 higher to defray costs and counteract the higher percentage of advance EFs expected.

Membership Sale: For about two weeks in March, membership dues will be cut by 20% across the board.

Music-Playing Chess Kids: Take note, the tentative date of the concert is May 14 and the venue will be near the corner of 96th & Linden.

Seattle City Championship

January 15-17 or January 16-17

A two-section, five-round Swiss with a time control of 40/120 and SD/60; d5 (Two-day schedule – Round 1, G/60; d5). The prize fund of \$1010 is based on 52 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

a Northwest Grand Prix event

Champi	onship	Reserve (U1800)			
First	\$250	First	\$140		
Second	\$150	Second	\$90		
Expert	\$100	Class C	\$70		
Class A	\$80	Class D	\$60		
EF: \$42 (\$33 for SCC mer	n., \$38 for mem, of other	Class E & Under	\$50		
NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/	/13 \$50 (\$39, \$44) at site;	Unrated	\$20		
GMs, IMs, WGMs free.		EE. 022 (024 Com COO	6		

EF: \$33 (\$24 for SCC mem., \$29 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/13, \$42 (\$33, \$38) at site. Unrateds free w/purch. 1-yr US Chess & WCF.

Both Sections: Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.

Reg.: Fri. 7-7:45pm, Sat. 9-9:45am. Rds: Fri. 8, Sat. (10am@ G/60;d5)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5. Byes: 2 (Sun. rds, commit at reg.). Misc.: US Chess & ICA/OCF/WCF memb. req'd. NS. NC.

Upcoming Events

De denotes 2016 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

Jan 2-3 Gresham Open, Gresham, OR. Format: 5-Round Swiss, Time Control for All Rounds: Game in 2 hours; 5 second delay (G/120;d5). Registration: Sat 9-9:45; Rounds: Sat 10, 2, ASAP; Sun 10, ASAP. Location: Mt. Hood Community College, Vista Room; 26000 SE Stark, Gresham. Check www.mhcc.edu/maps for directions to playing site. One ½ point bye available if requested at registration. Prizes: \$1,800 (Based on 60 entries); 1st \$350; 2nd \$230; 3rd \$145; U2100, U1900, U1700, U1500, U1300/unr: \$125, \$90 each. Entry Fee (checks or cash; no credit or debit cards): \$40; \$5 discount to PCC members if registered in advance by December 30. Memberships: US Chess and OCF/WCF/ICA required (OSA); NW Grand Prix. This is a qualifier for the OSCF state championship and for the 2017 OCF Invitational. Ent./Info.: Payable to Portland Chess Club; mail to Mike Morris, 2344 NE 27th Ave., Portland, OR 97212.

Jan 16/Feb 20 Portland CC Quad 45, Portland, OR. 3-round quads, G/45;d10. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR. Some/all sections may run as a 3-round Swiss with more than four players. The most current ("live") US Chess regular ratings are usually used for section placement. On-site registration runs from 9-9:45am. Rounds are scheduled for 10am, 12pm, and 2pm. Rounds 2 and 3 can be started earlier if both players agree. Players who have a game go long can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$15, PCC members \$10, free entry for players who are unrated in US Chess. US chess and NWSRS rated. US Chess membership is required and can be purchased during on-site registration. Winner of each section receives \$10 discount on the entry fee for one of the next three PCC Quad 45 or Tuesday Quads. If there is a six or seven player Swiss, the runner-up receives \$5 discount. Any scholastic player who wins their section with a perfect score will also receive a trophy or a medal if they win or tie for first in their section without a perfect score. OSCF State Qualifier. Optional blitz tournament afterwards.

Jan 21, 28 and Feb 4, 11, 18 Spokane Winter Championship, Spokane, WA. Site: Gonzaga University (Herak Rm 121). Registration: 6:30-7:15, Jan. 21. Rounds start by 7:30 each week, 1/21 to 2/18. E.F. \$16. US Chess rated. Format: 5 round Swiss. Time Control: G/120 (with 5 second delay). Contact: David Griffin, dbgrffn@hotmail.com.

Jan 23 Tacoma Open, Tacoma, WA. Site: Metro Parks Community Center, 3513 Portland Ave. E., Tacoma, WA. Format: 3 round Quads. Time Control: G/90; d5. Entry fee: \$25.00 advance, \$30.00 at site, \$22.00 for TCC members. Prize fund: \$40.00 each quad. Registration: 9:00-9:45 a.m. Rounds: 10:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4:45 p.m. One half-point bye available. US Chess/WCF memberships required. NS NC W. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, ph. (253) 535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com or web: tacomachess.org.

Jan 30/Feb 27 Portland CC Game in 60, Portland, OR. 4SS, G/60;d5. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. If 30 or more entries the field will be divided into 2 sections by ratings. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF/ICA and US Chess membership required, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9:00-9:45 a.m. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Prizes: If one section (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30; U1800, U1500 \$35 each. If two sections - upper section \$75-50-25 (b/15); lower section \$65-35; U1400 \$50 (b/15). No tiebreakers (prizes split). OSCF State Qualifier. Info: e-mail email@pdxchess.org, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.org.

Feb 13-15 Idaho Closed State Championship, **Twin Falls, ID.** IDAHO RESIDENTS ONLY! Chief TD: Barry Eacker. Shilo Inn, 1586 Blue Lakes Blvd No., Twin Falls, ID 83301. 6SS, 30/120;d5, SD/60;d5. Annual ICA Business mtg beginning at 8:30 AM prior to rnd 3. Rounds: 9, 4, 10, 4:30, 8, 3. One ½ pt Bye, Rounds 1-5. One zero-point bye available in last round. Must Notify TD before rnd 2 pairing. Reg & Ck in: 7:30 -8:30 Sat Feb 13. One Section: Open. EF: \$25 if registered by February 7, 2016. \$20 for Seniors (60+) and Juniors (under 18) if registered by February 7, 2016. \$30 for EVERYONE if registered after February 7, 2016. Current US Chess and ICA membership required (ICA rates posted online at www.idahochessassociation. org.) Prizes: Trophies or plaques, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Overall – 1st ,X; 1st-2nd, A thru F; 1st Junior; 1st Senior; 1st Unrated. HR: call Darlene and mention chess tournament at 208-737-6280. Do not register for hotel online. Calling Darlene gives ICA credit and allows us to have the event at this site. Contact: Barry Eacker, mol64@cableone.net, 208-733-6186, 963 Delmar Dr., Twin Falls, ID 83301. NC,NS, W.

Feb 20 Tacoma CC Winter Open, **Tacoma, WA.** Site: Metro Parks Community Center, 3513 Portland Ave. E., Tacoma, WA. Format: 3 round Quads. Time Control: G/90; d5. Entry fee: \$25.00 advance, \$30.00 at site, \$22.00 for TCC members. Prize fund: \$40.00 each quad. Registration: 9:00-9:45 a.m. Rounds: 10:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4:45 p.m. One half-point bye available. US Chess/WCF memberships required. NS NC W. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, ph. (253) 535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com or web: tacomachess.org.

Feb 27-28 The 24th Dave Collyer Memorial, **Millwood, WA.** (new location) 5SS, Rd. 1: G/90 d5; Rds. 2-5: G/115 d5. Millwood Presbyterian Church Community Center, 3223 N. Marguerite, Millwood, WA 99212 (I-90 Exit 287; one mile north to Euclid. Turn left go two blocks). EF: \$27 if received by 2/26; \$33 at door Under 19 \$5 less. \$\$GTD: \$350-225-125. Ex — \$100; A; B; C; D; E/Unr: \$100-70; Biggest Upsets: \$100-50 (non-provisional ratings only). One prize per player except for biggest upset. Reg.: Feb. 27 10:00-10:40 am. Rds.: 2/27: 11 - 2:30 - 7:00; 2/28: 9:00; 1:30. One 1/2 point bye available. ENT: Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo, 9923 N. Moore, Spokane, WA 99208-9339. INFO: www.spokanechessclub. org, kmkorsmo@comcast.net. W.

Northwest Chess c/o Orlov Chess Academy 2501 152nd Ave NE STE M16 Redmond, WA 98052-5546

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